The National
Future Farmer
April-May, 1977
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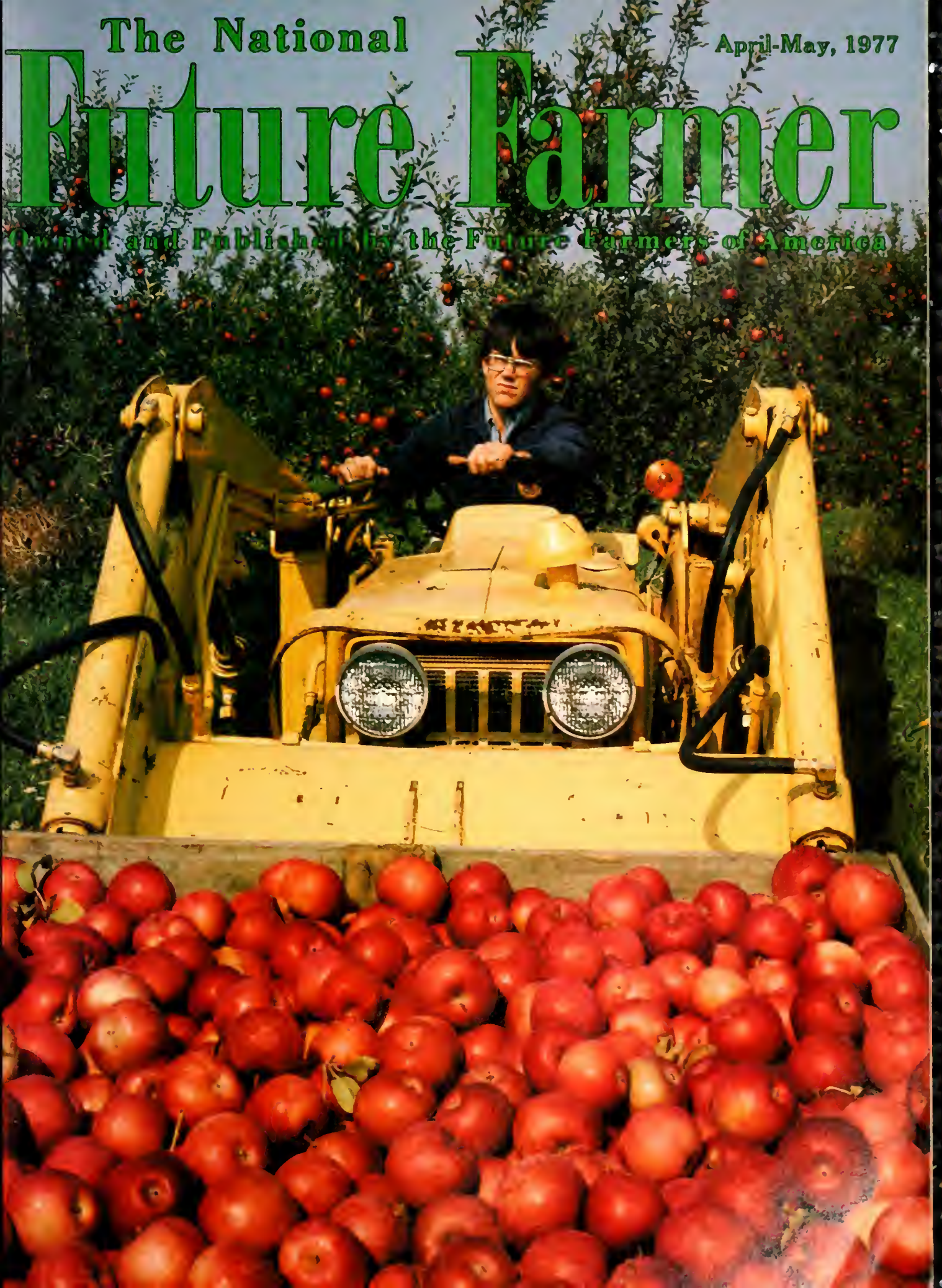

Kendall Foster is shaping farming's future. Right now.

Kendall Foster is one of the reasons why the future in farming is not only getting closer, it's getting better.

This 18-year-old leader from Laredo, Missouri, has been chosen this year's National FFA Crop Production Award program winner. And he's more than earned this honor.

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Taking a new stand

The National
Future Farmer
Owned and Published by the Future Farmers of America

Volume 25 Number 4
April-May, 1977

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A Word With The Editor

One activity that has been able to withstand the test of time is the annual tour of National Officers, for many years called the Goodwill Tour. This year was the 30th year for the tour and took your Officers to 57 agribusiness firms, civic clubs and educational centers in 14 cities and 6 states.

The month-long tour started on February 7, in Richmond, Virginia, and from there moved on to the midwest where the majority of the visits were made this year. Major cities on the schedule included Indianapolis, Ft. Wayne, Madison, Racine, Milwaukee, Chicago, Peoria, Quincy, Bloomington, Detroit and Kalamazoo with the tour ending in Kansas City, Missouri.

The purpose of the tour, as described by FFA President James Bode, "is to give people involved in agribusinss and education an opportunity to meet and visit with members of the FFA organization." He further described the tour as, "a highlight of the year for the National Officers." Specifically, they visit and say thank you to many of the businesses and industries that support the FFA through the National FFA Foundation, Inc. An effort is made to concentrate the tour in a different area each year so more visits can be made to different groups.

Some states and chapters have conducted similar tours in their areas and found them quite successful. The main reason seems to be the tours benefit both groups. FFA members learn more about the business community and these people learn more about vocational agriculture and the FFA. Without the support of many people outside the FFA, the organization would not be what it is today. So take time to say "thanks" to our friends.

Wilson Carnes

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The Cover

A bountiful harvest, no matter what the crop, is a pleasant sight to see. It's a meaningful symbol of the planning and labor of days gone by. Indeed, management and hard work go a long way to insure a prosperous harvest. Tom Rath of the Kendall FFA Chapter and New York's Star Agribusinessman of 1976 is shown on the cover with the fruits of labor and management.

Cover photo by Gary Bye

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News in Brief

The FFA

THE REPORTER'S PART of the opening ceremony of a meeting should now read "From Alaska to Puerto Rico" instead of "Washington to Puerto Rico." The change was made at the convention when Alaska became the FFA's fifty-first association, but was unintentionally omitted from the 1977 Official Manual.

FFA'S NEW STUDENT HANDBOOK was put into its final form in early March. The writing committee for the handbook met in Kansas City to review suggestions made by state committees over the last three months. Development of the new Student Handbook is being sponsored by the 430 farmer-owned Production Credit Associations of the United States.

NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION has approved pro-rated life membership dues payment over a five-year period of $25 each year. The life member will receive the life membership card, certificate and lifetime subscription to *The National FUTURE FARMER*. With the fifth year payment the life member will have a $100 Memorial Scholarship available in their name to be given to an FFA member in a designated chapter upon the life member's death.

START THINKING NOW about your plans for the FFA's 50th year. The National Organization has been making plans over the last two years. With the help of convention delegates, FFA board members, national officers and FFA staff are cooperating to develop many special materials your chapter will be able to use during the 50th Anniversary celebration. The celebration will begin at the 1977 National FFA Convention and will continue throughout the year with a final celebration of the golden year at the 1978 convention.

SCOTT McKAIN, FORMER National Officer and current law student, will serve as director of the annual Washington Leadership Conferences this summer. Joining him as counselors will be Robb Boyd, North Dakota; Mike Jackson, Indiana; Kathy Kubicek, Minnesota; Bobby Tucker, Texas; and Ron Wilson of Kansas.

JEFF AGNEW, a graduate of Ohio State University in photojournalism, has been hired at the National Center to fill the vacancy occurring when Arch Hardy retired. Jeff will be the official FFA photographer for the summer conferences among other activites.

A TEN-YEAR AGREEMENT with Kansas City, Missouri, and the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show that states the FFA will hold its national convention in Kansas City for the next ten years was signed earlier this year by representatives of the three groups. The agreement has provisions for annual renewal and should assure the FFA of adequate hotel space by preventing overlapped booking of non-related events.

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"Everybody wants that feeling of accomplishment. Say I'm Alpha Company trying to raise someone in Bravo on the radio. Well it's not hard for me because I've been trained to do it. But still, when I can do it fast, and do it under pressure—it does give me a little joy. And if somebody says, 'Hey, you did a pretty good job out there,' that's even better. Sure, it may be just part of soldiering. But soldiering's a part of life."
PFC Craig Nichols, Fort Carson, Colorado
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NFE Digestion	72%	74%

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Energy Digestion	61%	65%
Protein Preservation	73%	81%
Protein Digestion	58%	56%
NFE Preservation	61%	73%
NFE Digestion	53%	62%

SORGHUM SILAGE		
Item	Control	silaGain
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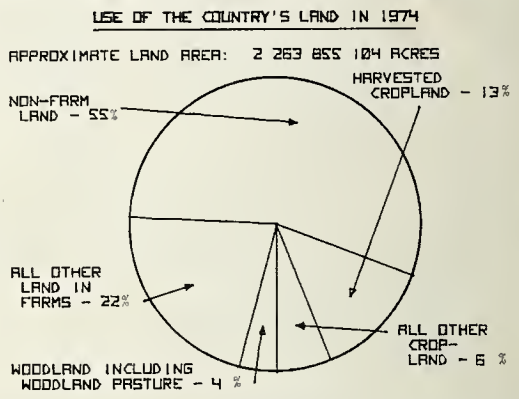
Looking Ahead

Agriculture

FARMERS OF THE WORLD, except in China, increased their output in 1976 by about 3 percent, according to preliminary USDA estimates. Production in the People's Republic of China barely equalled that of the previous year. A dramatic 15 percent rise in output occurred in the Soviet Union, reflecting recovery from disastrous drought in 1975. Canada also showed a substantial gain, but Western Europe and Japan production declined. Little change occurred in either the U.S. or Eastern Europe.

FOR THE FIRST TIME in ten years, government statistics showed a definite trend in halting a decline in sheep numbers in the United States in 1976. Figures released by the United States Department of Agriculture showed an increase of 4 percent in total ewe lambs as compared to a decline of 11 percent the year before, making for a net change of 15 percent. Increasing ewe lamb numbers represent the first positive step toward rebuilding the sheep industry.

AVERAGE SIZE OF ALL FARMS in the U.S. that have over $1,000 worth of sales was 440 acres in 1974, according to the preliminary report of the Census of Agriculture taken that year. This compares with an average of 472 acres in the same category in 1969. The Census indicates a total of 1,012,009,171 acres involved in farms of that size, likened to 1,018,555,263 acres in 1969. The pie-graph at right shows how the nation's land was used in the census year of 1974.


USE OF THE COUNTRY'S LAND IN 1974
APPROXIMATE LAND AREA: 2 263 855 104 ACRES
HARVESTED CROPLAND - 13%
NON-FARM LAND - 55%
ALL OTHER LAND IN FARMS - 22%
ALL OTHER CROP-LAND - 6 %
WOODLAND INCLUDING WOODLAND PASTURE - 4 %

INDIA, NOT THE USSR, proved the biggest market for U.S. wheat during 1975-76. The United States provided 74 percent of all India's grain imports, shipping 4.8 million tons of wheat (4.1 million of those were under cash purchase, the other 711,200 tons were under the relief program) and 622,400 tons of sorghum. The Soviet Union ranked second in the wheat market category, followed by Japan which imported 3.3 million.

DAIRYMEN WHO SELECT cows for increased production are indirectly selecting for cows with a higher peak flow rate, according to scientists at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Maryland. This means that though it may take longer to milk out a high producer, her milking rate will be faster than her lower producing herdmate. Peak flow rate is highly heritable and high producers commonly milk more rapidly.

HOME GARDENS SHOULD pay off handhomely in 1977 due to current vegetable market conditions, says a horticulturist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Both fresh and processed fruits and vegetables will be in short supply this spring due to unfavorable weather conditions in Florida and California and prices will likely be higher. Early planning, including ordering seed and getting the soil in shape, is important for a productive garden.

CAN SEDIMENT DREDGED from rivers and lakes boost crop production? That's what scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service and the University of Minnesota expect to find out. Plant growth studies will be made in greenhouses, using the sediment samples from ten dredging sites in the East and Midwest, as well as soil samples from nearby areas and combinations of the two.

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From the Mailbag

Readers Report

Carpenter, Wyoming

It makes me proud to see an American, to be able to look at the leader of our country and know Jimmy Carter is not only a farmer, but a former FFA member, too. Is President Carter the first President in history to be a former FFA'er and supporter?

Mike Moyer

Yes, he is the first former FFA member to be elected President.—Ed.

The letter below was written to James Thomas, author of "American Agriculture and the FFA" which appeared in the February-March issue.—Ed.

Pullman, Washington

I congratulate you on the excellent article and thank you for the thoughts which you have presented so well! Having lived in western Nebraska from the time I was born in 1914 until I left for the Pacific Northwest in 1938—except for time in school at the University of Nebraska—I have been very much aware of the trials and tribulations that brought us from those difficult years to modern agriculture. Yours is the best attempt to put that permanently into words that I have ever read. From this base, you have looked into the future to observe some frightening possibilities. As a Regional Food and Agriculture Officer for the Rhineland immediately after its occupation by military government, I developed a keen interest in the food situation for the world. Your view that the clash between expanding population and existing production capabilities as posing a threat of the greatest dimensions is indeed well stated and supported. The popular reaction that "cropland is too vital a resource to leave in private hands" is suggested by the present acrimony and popular public statements relative to our present energy shortages and maligning of the oil companies, the nuclear industry and others. When a shortage occurs, the public reaction is that suppliers ought to be punished. It is frightening to contemplate!

Your warning is most timely and proper.

B. R. Bertramson, Director
Resident Instruction
Washington State University

P.S. I was delighted to learn that the late Jerry Litton and our new President, Jimmy Carter, were both active members of FFA. The interesting article on President Carter's activities—and the support of his family—in the FFA program covered in the same issue as your article is a great morale booster for those with origins on the farm.

Elbow Lake, Minnesota

I read the articles in your magazine every time I get it and I especially enjoyed two of your articles in the February-March issue.

The article on the Washington Leadership Conference was very interesting to me because I was thinking about attending the conference and this article gave me some more background on it and now I am sure that I am going to go.

The other article I really enjoyed was the one on Jimmy Carter. He proved that in the FFA, no matter how small the chapter is that you come from, you can really get some good background experience for even becoming the President of the United States.

So keep up the good work and the good articles.

David Schneeberger

Riverside, California

I am writing to ask for information on the exchange program between chapters in different states. Here are a few states our chapter suggested: Alaska, Vermont, Washington, Iowa, Montana, Colorado, Kentucky and Pennsylvania. Please send it as soon as possible.

Nancy Traver
State and National Committee Chairman

Exchanges are not organized by the national staff. They are usually arranged between advisors or state association leaders. Contacts are often made at National Leadership Conference or the National Convention.—Ed.

Fernendena Beach, Florida

In the February-March issue there is an article about Jimmy Carter. My brother, L. L. Spence, was one of the teachers. If possible, would you send about five copies and bill me.

John A. Spence

Randolph, Vermont

Since it is getting close to FFA WEEK, I thought you might like to see the stamp that I have in my scrapbook. I found it while looking through old letters of my Mom's.

I am sending it along just in case no one has ever seen it before. If you do not wish to keep it, just send it back in the self-addressed envelope I have enclosed. I think I would like to give it to my chapter.

Barb Perry

Thank you for sending us the FFA 25th Anniversary stamp from 1953. We are also very close to the 50th Anniversary of FFA. Unfortunately, the U.S. Postal Service will not issue a commemorative stamp for FFA in 1978.—Ed.

ATTENTION:

Recall of 22 Rim Fire Wildcat™ Brand Ammunition

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LF41	LF91
LF42	LF92

We are recalling cartridges from 12 lots of Wildcat brand 22 long rifle rim fire ammunition due to excessive pressure in some of the cartridges which can make them potentially hazardous to shoot. Use of this ammunition can cause damage to 22 caliber firearms and could cause personal injury.

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(A typical code on the box reads "1LF12PY".)

This ammunition can be identified by the Code Numbers shown above which are printed on the inside tuck flap of each 50 round box and on the upper right corner of the end panel of 5000 round cases.

If you have Wildcat brand 22 rim fire ammunition with any of these identifying numbers, please return it to your dealer for replacement. Do not mail the ammunition to us as this is against postal regulations.

This notice is limited to the Code Numbers shown above. All other Wildcat Ammunition is not included in this recall.

WINCHESTER-Western

James Bode
National President

An Informal Visit With Your National Officers

By K. Elliott Nowels

THERE'S a certain mystique surrounding a person holding one of the FFA's National Offices. They speak, lead and meet people so well that it's hard to realize at times that they started out as Greenhands, just like anyone else.

They have emotions, just like anyone else. They have goals and accomplishments, just like anyone else. And, at one time or another, they polish shoes, wash their faces, eat popcorn, brush their teeth, smile and sometimes frown —all just as anyone else might.

What, then, makes the difference? Why did they make it to the top when others didn't? James, Bruce, Danny, Julie, Rick and Sam, this year's team, pause to reflect on those questions now and then.

"Maybe it's just how bad you want to be a National Officer, Julie Smiley said.

Julie Smiley
Western Region Vice President

"How much you're willing to sacrifice —how much time you spend trying to improve your speaking ability and knowledge of the FFA, the desire you have to serve."

"Many things go together to answer that question," James Bode, national president, added. "Desire and determination are important parts."

"There's a fine line between confidence and arrogance," Bruce Maloch, national secretary said. "I think the nominating committee was looking for individuals that would not look upon holding national office egotistically. They were looking for people who simply wanted to serve the FFA."

For many National Officers, the decision to be a National Officer, or try to be, was arrived at when a Greenhand or Chapter Farmer, which hasn't really been that long ago. They remember how they viewed people holding National Office from a Greenhand's standpoint.

"I think probably all of us can say that as younger members we looked up to the National Officers, said 'Wow' and maybe thought they bordered on being superhuman—just a step below the highest cloud," Rick said. "Once you get elected, though, you realize that with desire it is possible to reach your goals, if you set your mind to it."

"Election is a tremendous honor and

Meeting and conversing with many different people is an almost daily occurrence for a National FFA Officer. Here the team is talking with Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland about the industry.

Even when the lights are out, the schedule must go on. Faced with a power outage at the National FFA Center, the officers still met for a planned orientation to the International Program—by candlelight.

as Greenhands we all might have thought that a National Officer was really something but we don't place ourselves above other members because election didn't really change us, it just put us in a different position," Bruce summed up.

There's one thing that makes this team different than any other that has gone before. Of course that's the fact that one of them is a girl. This "first" is national news and the whole team, but particularly Julie, has been asked again and again to express their feelings on the new situation. Even Bob Bergland, Secretary of Agriculture, commented, "Congratulations, I'm pleased to meet you. I guess you're the first of your kind," upon meeting Julie during the team's visit to his office.

"People ask me how it feels to be the first girl National Officer and I tell them that I don't have anything to compare it with because I've never been a guy National Officer," she laughs, then seriously says, "We're a team of six National Officers, and my purpose as one of the six is not to promote women in any special way, it's to promote the FFA as a whole."

Although she prefers no special treatment and, in fact, plays down the historical significance of her election, she realizes that it's there.

"I guess I have to face the fact that I might be setting standards for female FFA officers who might hold National Office in the future."

The team is fairly unified on the subject, or as unified as you could expect six individuals to be.

"All of us would prefer for our team to be remembered as a good National Officer team that handled our duties well, not as the first National Officer team that had a female member," James related. "Actually we're still learning how to cope with the situation and how we handle it under different circumstances will make a big difference to our satisfaction with the year as a whole."

Sam Brownback
Central Region Vice President

In addition, Bode thought that with women becoming more important and prominent in agriculture, working out the particulars of the equality situation is something that deserves a bit more attention.

Brownback indicated quite candidly that he is guilty of a hint of jealousy at times due to the extra attention forwarded Julie, but said that for the most part the interrelating of team members is much like five brothers and a sister and it comes quite naturally that way.

Danny prefers to simplify. "It's all right," he grins.

Being a National Officer is a rigorous proposition that can drain a person, emotionally and physically. There are chapter visits, banquets, visits to important people in business and industry, government officials and speaking at dinners. Keeping psyched-up and enthusiastic is important to the team.

Bruce Maloch
National Secretary

"What keeps us going? Well, you never know when an individual you meet or someone listening to you speak might become a real leader some day. Who knows—it might be something you said that got him started," President Bode said. "You've got to give it your best shot every day."

Having a love for the FFA and what it can do for everyone—from Greenhand to chapter officer to state president—is important to Bruce's frame of mind. "You're always meeting new and interesting people," he said.

"You're representing the FFA and even though you might be tired, you can't be selfish, you've got to remember that there are over 500,000 members counting on you, so you keep giving what you can," said Brownback.

"It's kind of neat how the six of us can pull together as a team. If one of us is not quite up to par on a certain day, we can joke and talk between us to

Rick McDaniel
Eastern Region Vice President

ease the outside pressure and get things back to normal," Julie said..

Now that they've been elected and have the position, plus the long days and large responsibilities that go with it, they constantly think and rethink through what they want to accomplish —both individually and as a team.

"I think you can draw a contrast between just doing something and really being somebody," Danny said, explaining that he would like to accomplish much as a National Officer—not simply fill the position.

Sam wants to make the most of "the rare opportunity that we have to motivate people to greater achievements," by relating well to all people he comes into contact with and maintaining his active sense of humor, among other things.

Julie says she wants to "relate some of my mistakes to other people and share some of the things I've learned from them. Maybe someone else can learn from my mistake."

"Just because we've made National Officer doesn't mean that we'll stop growing—we all know that we've got to try harder. We've got a lot of work to do to reach a kind of ideal that we'd want to maintain," Rick explained.

Danny Schiffer
Southern Region Vice President

Leaders Wanted...

How does a person get to be a National Officer? Let's take a look behind the scenes to find out.

By K. Elliott Nowels

WANTED: Six very capable young persons to lead and serve as an example for over one-half million of their fellow FFA members. Must have a solid background in vocational agriculture and the FFA. Must have American Farmer degree, reasonable public speaking ability and be willing to travel. Contact your state office for details.

If someone were to write a want-ad for a National FFA Officer, that's the way it might appear in the newspaper. It gives a brief, concise idea of what a national officer should be.

Fortunately, in the FFA there is no need for want-ads, because there is a thorough yet fairly simple process for finding the best possible members to fill the big and busy shoes of a national officer.

The official part of the process starts at the state level. The state association's recommendation is the only in-road for a member desiring to be a candidate and the state advisor can only recommend one member per year from their state. In most cases that member has a very strong background in the FFA at the local and state levels, perhaps being a state FFA officer, although being a state officer is not a prerequisite for being a national officer.

Filling out a "National FFA Officer Candidate Information and Hotel Reservation Form" is the next order of business. This application asks detailed questions concerning the member's previous leadership activities, farming or agribusiness program and why he desires to serve as a national officer. It also reserves him a hotel room in Kansas City for the convention which is by this time about two months away.

Some of that two months is likely to be spent preparing for the forthcoming interview before the nominating committee at the convention, something that some might look upon with a certain uneasiness.

"I think most of those interested study just about everything they can get their hands on, manuals, convention proceedings from the previous year and so on," said Wm. Paul Gray, recently retired executive secretary, who has worked with the last 20 national officer teams.

November brings the convention and final cramming. The moment of truth draws near. The candidates arrive at the convention before the general proceedings. They attend a candidate briefing by the current officers to provide them with a further idea of just what they're getting into. They also attend the delegate orientation session, during which they learn of the official business to be transacted by the delegates at the convention. They are introduced to the delegates at this time and the names of those delegates who are on the nominating committee are also announced. These members will be responsible for the bulk of the selection work.

Members of the nominating committee are chosen by the regional representatives of the board of directors and the present national officers at a meeting just prior to the convention. The members have no idea that they will be serving on the nominating committee until their names are called. The committee has nine members, two from each region and one at-large member who serves as chairman. They cannot come from any state that has an officer candidate. In the rare event that every state in a region has a candidate, then an alternate procedure is determined by the board of directors.

The committee takes one or two hours for getting acquainted and preparing for the interviews. Each member of the committee is provided with a notebook containing a copy of each candidate's application, a sample list of possible questions and suggestions of what to look for in a potential national officer.

There are two advisors for the committee and they are the only ones in the room with them. They are there solely for the purpose of keeping the committee on time and moving toward a decision, according to Dr. James

(Continued on Page 16)

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NAVY. IT'S NOT JUST A JOB, IT'S AN ADVENTURE.

Officers Elected

(Continued from Page 14)

Clouse, who is head teacher educator at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He and James Warren, a program officer for the the U.S. Office of Education, Philadelphia, have been sharing the duties for the past six years.

Dr. Clouse explained that the committee attempts to find out how well the candidates know their FFA organization and its programs and function from the local level on up to the national and international levels. They are also questioned on their personal backgrounds, knowledge of agriculture, and current events pertaining to agriculture. Thinking on your feet is important to a potential national officer, as well as being able to maintain a good intelligent conversation with people in all walks of life.

A special section in the mezzanine of the Municipal Auditorium is provided for the officer candidates who remain there to view most of the convention. They never know when they will be called for an interview. Over the years the area of waiting has been labeled the "sweat box" by those who have waited the nominating committee's call.

The officer candidates might say that the selection process visible at Kansas City is only the tip of an iceberg of preparation that began for them long ago. Some may have had election as a goal as they began high school and have been working toward that goal ever since. The convention is actually the home stretch. It can all boil down to less than an hour of answering questions; talking to the committee. This is realized and every attempt is made to be fair.

"They'll interview each candidate a minimum of three times apiece and sometimes they'll call them in six or seven times, depending on how comfortable they are with a certain decision," said Dr. Clouse. "Almost every year they interview them individually first, then have them come in as small groups and interview them again."

"It's not as if you go in and happened to trip on a rug and fall on your nose, it's all down the drain," Coleman Harris, associate executive secretary of the National Organization said. "The committee tries to give each candidate a fair shake in terms of equal time and equal questioning."

Starting on Tuesday afternoon and having midnight on Thursday as a deadline for selection, the committee is probably in session a total of 24 to 30 hours. The only breaks taken are those for meals and sleeping. About two to eight of those hours may be spent simply on deciding which six people to nominate after the interviews are over.

"When you have from 30 to 35 candidates, as we've been having, it's sometimes rather difficult for the committee to pick out six of those to nominate for national office," Dr. Clouse said.

But a decision must be made. The committee works on coming up with a suitable person for president first, then picks a secretary, working on the vice-president spots last. When all committee members are satisfied, a final vote is taken to reach a unanimous decision and the secret must be kept until the names are brought before the delegates on the convention floor the following morning.

"I guess by the time you count the members of the nominating committee, Mr. Warren and myself and the people that stay up that night and write the press releases, about 15 people know who the nominees are prior to the general announcement," Dr. Clouse said. "It's an understood policy that the names are confidential."

The delegates formally nominate and vote on the nominating committee recommendations on Friday morning resulting in the announcement of the new officer team. Names may be nominated from the floor, but they must have already been approved by their state advisor, or in other words, they would have already been interviewed.

"There's only two times I can remember that ever happening," said Mr. Gray of additional floor nominations. "Both times the individual only got a couple of votes. I think that the delegates simply have high regard for the decision-making ability of their peers on the nominating committee."

Once the vote is taken, the officers are whisked from the stage to the press room for interviews and pictures. The formal installation ceremony is held that evening with the new officers providing the closing ceremony.

Does the system work? The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Year after year leaders are selected that don't just stop with being a national officer, but go on to make a mark for themselves on the world at large.

"I think we have a very workable process. The selection and training program we have is enabling us to get the best people and project a real good image for vocational agriculture and the FFA," remarked Mr. Gray.

Thinking of becoming a national officer? If you care to answer the ad, there's no better time to begin preparing than now.

FFA in the Inaugural Parade

The "new spirit" filled the crisp, cold air as the National FFA Officers joined retired vo-ag teacher R. W. "Doc" Guinther and the Indiana covered wagon in a jaunt from the Capitol building to the White House on Inauguration Day in Washington, D.C.

The Indiana State officers and members of several Indiana Chapters also walked beside the wagon, which was one of Indiana's two units in the nationally televised Inaugural Parade. They reported that President Carter stood up and gave them a smile and a big wave when they rolled by.

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JOHN DEERE

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland poses for a formal picture with the National FFA Officers just prior to discussing current trends in agriculture.

A Visit with the New Secretary of Agriculture

THE National FFA Officers visited the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently to learn more about its operation. And what better person to learn it from than Bob Bergland, the Secretary of Agriculture?

One subject Secretary Bergland spent a considerable time on was climate and weather and its effect on the new agriculture policy.

"We're going to be changing the fundamental premise in the Department upon which policies are built," Bergland said. "In the past, most of our economic strategies were built on presumption that weather would be normal or average. It's a dangrous assumption. If the weather turns out not to be average, then you get into embargoes and heavy stocks and the price impact is devastating, either much too high or far too low."

Bergland explained that he was planning to meet with the leading weather authorities in the world to design a computerized model of weather probability. "They have good records, including daily temperatures and rainfall patterns from stations around the world. We'll put these statistics on a computer and devise a law of probability of temperature and rainfall for every state, based on a detailed analysis of what has happened every day in a given location for the past 100 years," he said.

Bergland pointed out that the weather can strongly affect such basic policies as utilization of carryover stocks.

"In fact, the world's grain production is affected more by weather than any other single factor. This year we had the largest carryover of wheat that we've had in 13 years. Some people say that we don't want a reserve stock, but whatever they choose to call it, it's there, physically on location, for sale, and it is having an impact on price. We've got the biggest carryover of rice ever in history, we have the biggest farmer-owned and controlled reserve of corn ever in the history of the country. These reserves were not brought on by something Earl Butz did or did not do or because we had some conscious policy. It was just good weather in the Soviet Union. India is reporting wheat in excess of her needs. No one ever dreamed that this could happen. They just had perfect weather conditions."

Bergland went on to explain what the end result might be. "To make a long story short, we are developing this new strategy that will enable us to make more rational decisions, advising producers for example, that next year the probability is that the weather circumstances will be this way—38 percent chances the weather will be this—24 percent chance the weather will be this, you can take your pick. You can take your chances on what it will be, but we know, based on the very best scientific mathematical data, that this is likely to be the weather circumstances in this world. We're giving it to you straight. Make your own decisions on what you want to do," he said.

Bergland said the government will probably offer incentives to store the grain on the farm, maybe under a contract instead of cutting the price and selling it just to clear the market. "I'm going to need some extra authority in the laws," he said.

"We're living in a very exciting time," the Secretary said. "I'm 48 years old and the world's population has doubled in my lifetime. It's gone from 2 billion to 4 billion and it grows at the rate of 200,000 per day; generally born into a very poor environment, financially very poor. You know they're hungry but they have nothing with which to pay; so the question is, who pays? There isn't enough money in the U.S. Treasury or enough grain on the farms of this country to feed this world. It has to feed itself, but we can help."

When asked about the financial problems that are faced by younger people trying to get started in farming, the Secretary started his answer by referring to his own experiences.

"I farmed. I started in 1950 and contracted for a deed. I had no money, but I had neighbors who were willing to sell me a piece of land with nothing down. I paid crop payments and if it hadn't been for the generosity of my neighbors, I would have never started," he said, then turned his attention to the present.

"In recent years we've seen soybeans one year at $5 and one year at $7. People are buying land in anticipation of $5 wheat and $10 soybeans. We know what's happened to land prices—just gone out of this world.

Do we devise a farm lending strategy for young people that says we're going to lend you money to buy land in Illinois at $4,000 an acre—when we know darn well you'd never make it? Your soybeans can't stay $10, they can't stay $7 . . . Are we doing you a favor, making you a 100 percent loan when every study tells us there isn't a chance in the whole world you can repay it out of the earnings from that farm?

He went on to say that the situation poses a real dilemma for young people and for the Department and their credit resources. He stated that they were examining the situation carefully to see what policies they might come up with to ease the problem.

"Any advice you (the FFA) can give us on this matter will be appreciated. We do know it's important to have young people in the business," the Secretary said.

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SEAL OF U.S. COTTON PRODUCERS

On the Air

For 25 years the FFA has produced a television show serving their community's agriculture.

APRIL 4, 1952, a weekly FFA television show was born in Erie, Pennsylvania. And in February of 1977 Eric Johnson, program director of WICU-TV in Erie, stated that there is a possibility this same weekly television show is seen in 343,000 homes in Ohio, Canada, New York and Pennsylvania.

On April 4, 1977, the show completes 25 years and a new schedule is being prepared. Dr. B. E. Decker, who is now 75 years of age and retired from the Pennsylvania Department of Education after serving 46 years, was involved from the beginning and still is. WICU wants the show to continue as they have never received an unfavorable letter—everything favorable for the FFA show.

How did the show get started? Loyal D. Odhner, managing director of the Pennsylvania Chain Store Council was keenly interesting when he appeared before the Erie and Warren FFA Chapters in 1952 suggesting that they organize a beef show and auction—that the chain stores would finance it until it would become well established. The FFA accepted and has conducted shows from that time up to now. The FFA members buy feeder steers, fatten them and sell them after a three-day show to to the highest bidder.

The beef show needed some publicity. Again it was Mr. Odhner who had some ideas about this. He contacted the TV station in Erie and made an appointment to do a show.

The superintendent of schools was invited plus the livestock queen. And to make it more lively, an Angus baby beef was included.

The station was only three years old at this time and so for lack of a better place, a spot in the large kitchen was adopted as the background scene for the livestock show.

Apparently the first show was a success and the program director, Don Lick, asked the FFA to conduct a series of 13 shows on Channel 12. Mr. Odhner agreed that this was a good idea and he appointed Dr. Biron Decker, advisor of Erie FFA, to serve as producer and emcee for each show. Thirteen weeks passed, then 13 years and now the show is about to start the twenty-sixth year.

One highlight of the 25-year successful run was a television workshop. Every time a new group of FFA members entered the TV studio it was Dr. Decker's job to acquaint them with the studio, how the facilities were operated and to tell them what to do and why. There were 20 chapters involved in Erie, Warren and Crawford counties. Thus the need for a workshop to acquaint more members and advisors with television. A plan for a television workshop was developed. There were over 35 people involved in the three-day workshop taught by television personnel. It proved to be educational and interesting as well. Now the teachers were prepared to pass on this information to their FFA organizations.

Over the years the FFA has received 100 percent cooperation from the TV station staff. Dr. Decker received full cooperation from the local FFA advisors.

A schedule is prepared to fit the seasons—everything related to the time of year. What should be done now? This series of subjects is sometimes submitted to the teachers but they usually ask that a subject be assigned to them. A series of 13 to 20 weeks is duplicated and mailed to each advisor by the station.

The shows are taped on Thursday and "aired" on Saturday at 1:00, usually just ahead of a sports event. The first ten years were all live shows but now taped shows can be corrected or they can be taped on another day.

Since Erie and Warren counties are so agriculturally diversified, the television show has also been highly diversified. Shows about fruit and dairy production have been very popular over the years.

Shows featuring agricultural organizations like the ASCS, Soil Conservation Service, Agriculture Extension, dairy associations, Grange, Fish Commission and Game Commission were often used.

One feature was farmer interviews by FFA members about various farm problems. Some other shows, according to Dr. Decker, were: the meat cutter—cut a side of beef and explained cheap cuts and how to use them; the milking parlor—a live cow in stall, required nine hours to set up and wire; clipping sheep—could not rehearse, must have sheep with wool; building a small engine from scratch—had it started in 28 minutes; and pruning fruit trees, grape vines, brambles, shrubbery.

Some show topics planned for 1977 are "If you own a riding horse, you should . . ."; landscape planning; wildlife protectors; fitting animals for the show ring; and pesticide regulations.

Livestock and animals have always been a big attraction on the FFA television show. Baby chicks were featured here.

The goat show was an unusual one and all of the live animals made it particularly exciting for TV personnel.

"How does a dairy calf differ from a beef calf?" was a topic for one of the television shows out of the past.

Around the World In One Year

A trip around the world wasn't in Patti's plans until she talked with her ag teacher about hosting an exchange student.

By Robin Lewis

Although the WEA program offers exciting opportunities for FFA'ers, it does mean students work as they learn.

FFA's Work Experience Abroad (WEA) program took Patti Zellmer from a small town of Montello in Wisconsin, to 22 countries. As a WEA around-the-world participant, Patti worked on farms in Holland, Australia, and New Zealand. She spent Christmas in Jerusalem, New Year's in Istanbul and money everywhere.

Being bored in agriculture class one day, Patti noticed a yellow pamphlet posted on a bulletin board. The pamphlet was about FFA International programs and the WEA. Noticing a paragraph about FFA chapters hosting agriculture students from other countries, she took it to read on the long bus ride home.

"I decided that our chapter should try to host a foreign exchange student," Patti recalled. "I thought maybe that could bring some fresh culture to our itty-bitty town."

But when Patti approached her vo-ag instructor, Jack Whirry, advisor of Montello FFA Chapter for 33 years, he pulled his glasses off, looked up from his desk, and surprised her, "When are you going?"

Startled, Patti grinned, saying she hadn't considered going herself. "I never thought of being an exchangee," she later said. But with her peers' encouragement, she reread about WEA and decided "why not?"

Applying was the second big step for Patti. Emotionally, the decision to leave home for a year was a major one for the oldest of five children.

"Mom wasn't sure she wanted her daughter to go live in a strange country," according to Patti. "Dad was all for the program, but didn't think I needed to travel abroad to see farming. He thought I was crazy to go 10,000 miles to clean calf pens."

Money for the trip was a primary concern. While abroad, WEA students receive room, board, and a stipend. Working at home, Patti invested her earnings on supervised farming projects instead of banking it. Farm work, odd jobs and relatives made the trip financially possible.

Leaving her FFA projects was another worry. Patti decided to sell her most prized possession, a Quarterhorse mare.

Taking a long break between high school and college was another concern. The 1975 graduate wasn't sure she would want to resume formal education after being a temporary gypsy.

But monetary and moral support from Montello Chapter's 60 members urged Patti forward. "They paid my plane ticket to the Washington, D.C. orientation for departure by selling fire extinguishers," she said.

Patti put her dairy farm background to good use on the farm in Holland.

Preparation for the adventure included buying a sturdy suitcase.

"I had to take a 12-month wardrobe." Jeans and tee shirts were her standard costume. Light clothes for Australia's summer and woolen undies for Europe's winter had to be included.

Three or six months in a European country is part of the WEA program. Patti chose Holland as her host country, being interested in dairying. "Choosing a natively non-English-speaking country gave me the chance to learn another language," Patti said. Cassette tapes available from the National FFA Center taught the basic Dutch terminologies.

Despite such differences as finding the barn and the home under one roof, the many similarities between her host and real family surprised Patti. Learning chore routines gave her some problems. Although her host parents spoke English, learning their methods was a challenge. "Everything wasn't always sunny, but I'm glad I took the plunge."

Patti's home is a 600-acre farm near a 1,000-person town in Wisconsin. They raise 3,000 feeder hogs and have 50 dairy cows. "Mom" drives a school bus.

"Our town is so small, there didn't seem to be an outlet to something like a year around the world. Now I see that opportunities are around anywhere . . . if you take advantage of them."

The author Robin Lewis from Corvallis, Oregon, was also on the Work Exchange Program.

Advisor Boyd with an American Farmer.

"76" in '76

FIVE FFA members of the Cape Fear Chapter in North Carolina received the American Farmer degree at the National Convention last November, thereby bringing the total number of degrees earned in that chapter to 76.

The Cape Fear FFA Chapter is where W. S. Boyd and J. H. Jernigan serve as advisors. *The National FUTURE FARMER* visited their area and did a story on the remarkable number of American Farmers,which is likely to be a national record ("67 Degrees and Climbing" February-March, 1975). Since that time, Cape Fear has added nine more names to their list of degree holders to bring the total to the current 76, the number that the chapter had established as their goal for the Bicentennial year of 1976.

W. S. Boyd first taught vocational agriculture at Central High School beginning in 1946. His first American Farmer degree recipient was in 1952, when Leonard Autry was honored in Kansas City. Since then, he has usually had at least two and sometimes as many as six members receive the degree each year.

In 1969, Central High School was consolidated with Cape Fear High School. Boyd left Central with 51 American Farmer degrees. While at Cape Fear High School working with the other advisor, J. H. Jernigan, another 25 FFA members have received their American Farmer degrees.

Boyd feels he can reach his personal goal of having 100 American Farmers before his retirement which he says is "five or six" years off.

Of the 76 American Farmers, 38 are currently farming full time, 20 are part-time farmers and 14 are in jobs related to agriculture, while two are deceased and another two they have lost contact with.

Boyd says that having American Farmers scattered all over the Cape Fear school district has served as a fine inspiration for all the FFA members to work hard toward receiving both the state and American Farmer degrees.

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Can You Hang Onto Your Family Farm?

New estate tax laws may improve your chances of continuing to farm the "old home place."

By K. Elliott Nowels

Photo by Author

"YOU have to either marry it or inherit it."

That old cliché about getting into farming has been around a long time. It has been disproven many times, but it sometimes can ring true. Of course, even the two avenues of entrance to farming suggested by the saying have their stumbling blocks.

But there's a new set of laws on the scene that may at least serve to alleviate some of the tax problems associated with inheriting a farm. It was signed into law by then-President Ford on October 4, 1976, and took affect January 1 of this year.

Depending on who you talk to the law is "very beneficial" or "still not enough." Ford noted that "special relief to the owners of family farms and businesses so that their heirs are not forced to liquidate these enterprises in order to pay estate taxes" was part of the bill and indicated that it essentially included his proposals.

The Tax Reform Act of 1976, as it has officially been labeled, concerns many other things besides estates—things like disaster payments, tax-loss farming, subchapter S corporations, capital gains and losses among others, and as with most new laws, it's rather involved and can be confusing.

The National FUTURE FARMER went to Charles A. Sisson, a staff economist for the United States Department of Agriculture, for a simplified explanation of the estate section of the Reform Act. Sisson assisted in the economic analysis of the proposed changes and their impact and since then has written the USDA publication of the subject. He comes from a small town in Kansas and says his background helps him in understanding the effect the new law will have.

"There's often a tendency for many people to be wary of changes in the law—they might say 'What's going on here?' or 'I know they're not doing me any good', but in this case I think they might be beneficial for the most part," said Sisson.

Three important changes affecting estates are: 1) The change from a "tax exemption" to a "tax credit," 2) A new "current use" valuation for farm land, and 3) Changing the extended payment interest rate from 7 percent to 4 percent, and the number of years allowed to pay it to 15 years. Formerly the allowance was 10 years.

"One thing I was very happy to see from a standpoint of being beneficial to the family farmer was the change from the tax exemption to the tax credit," Sisson said.

A new, more generous "tax credit" schedule is provided for with the new law. This tends to reverse the effect of the old law, throwing more of the benefit to the small to moderate-sized estates. *TAX CREDIT* is deducted *after* the tax on the estate has been figured,

as opposed to *EXEMPTING* a certain amount of the estate from tax *before* taxes are figured. This brings a sort of tax relief which is going to help young people who want to continue a family farming tradition, according to Sisson.

Where does the relief end and the reform begin? A rough estimate of that dollar value cut-off point would be around the $1 million mark.

Estates that are valued at $1 million and above will probably pay more taxes under the reformed laws, while estates that are worth less than $1 million will probably save on their estate taxes," said Sisson. "It's variable due to other influences, but I would say that estates in the, and this is a rough figure, $400,000 to $500,000 range are going to be helped the most. They are going to have substantial savings under the change from the exemption to the credit," Sisson explained, adding that "this change affects all estates."

Another important provision is "current use" valuation of farm land for estate tax purposes. The provision will allow many farmers a break in that they will be able to avoid valuing their land at fair market value, which could be very high, especially in areas close to cities, and opt for valuing the land on the basis of its worth in its current production capacity. The special valuation is determined by dividing the average yearly gross cash rental of comparable land—minus state and local taxes—by an average of the annual effective interest rates for all new Federal Land Bank Loans. *See footnote below. (This represents a commonly accepted means of capitalizing a stream of returns.) There are five factors that must be met to qualify for the preferential valuation. They are:

- The value of the farm or other closely held business assets (both real and personal property) must comprise at least 50 percent of the decedent's adjusted gross estate.
- At least 25 percent of the adjusted value of the gross estate must be qualified farm or other closely held business real property.
- The property must pass to a qualified heir (a member of the family).
- The real property must have been owned by the decedent and been in its present use for five of the last eight years preceding death.
- The decedent or a member of his family must have materially participated in the operation of the farm or other closely held business for five of the eight years immediately preceding his death.

An implication here is that the farm must remain in the family at least 15 years after being passed down to avoid tax recapture. This is another provision designed to encourage the family farm.

Another possible encouragement is the change in the time and interest rate for long-term payment of estate tax provided by the new bill.

Under the old law, Sisson explained, heirs were able to spread payments over 10 years at an interest rate of 7 percent. Now the law allows 15 years to pay at a 4 percent penalty.

"That's a very significant change in policy," Sisson said. "Of course you have to apply for the extended payment plan. Farms, ranches and other closely held businesses must make up at least 65 percent of the total value of the estate."

There are many details of the Reform that have an affect on inheritance and the aforementioned provisions and some may not be beneficial to your particular case. Remember, it's a tax *reform*, not an out and out tax *relief*.

Overall, in what ways will the Reform affect FFA members desiring to operate the family farm? Sisson summarized that it will have a pronounced beneficial effect.

"It depends on the size of the farm. If they have a small to medium-sized farm, it will be a significant change, because it will virtually eliminate their estate taxes. For people who are in the large-sized farms, it won't have that much of an effect because they're going to have some sort of estate planning program in the first place."

Sisson was optimistic about the new rules. "Basically it was designed to help the smaller farms, and I think it very definitely has done that." But the economist was quick to add that the Reform is not a cure-all and planning for generation-transfer is a very important aspect of farm management.

The costs of settling an estate through the court system, including those of lawyers' fees and court costs, are another aspect that can be burdensome. A way to possibly alleviate the bite these expenses can take out of an estate is to have a program of gifts to heirs while still living. "I think it really behooves people to think about the miscellaneous costs of settling an estate beforehand," Sisson said. "Just because there are some beneficial changes, it doesn't mean that people can forget about the problems of inheritance. Many estates were brought relief by the estate tax reform, but that doesn't mean that they won't pay any tax and it doesn't mean that by looking into the matter further they are not going to save any additional money. I'm afraid some people have gotten that idea about it and I don't believe it's true," Sisson emphasized.

How can you become more prepared? Extension services will have some information on the subject and you can write to the USDA for a copy of Sisson's publication. In almost all cases you'll probably want to consult a lawyer, but you should read up on the Reform and have a basic knowledge of the subject before you pay him a visit. Quite likely, the more you know, the better off you will be. Ask a lot of questions. Find out how much your lawyer knows about the new law. Make sure he gives your case the attention it deserves and remember, no question is silly. Especially when it might save you several thousand dollars.

Some Brief Definitions . . .

Reform—To improve by changing.

Estate—All of a person's property.

Tax Exemption—A portion of an estate not subject to taxation.

Tax Credit—An amount of money credited to a person's tax liability.

Fair Market Value—The price a commodity would bring if sold on the open market (in this case, it's land).

Land Use Value—The value of land in some particular use (in this case, agricultural use).

Real Property—Stationary or fixed property, for instance, buildings or land.

Personal Property—Property other than real property (above).

Decedent—The deceased.

Tax Recapture—The obtaining of taxes that were formally deferred, but due to a change in status, may now be required.

**For a simple example, let's suppose a farm in Missouri has a market value of $435 per acre. The average yearly rate for renting that land in the last five years might be $30 a year, after subtracting state and local taxes. By dividing this figure by the average interest rate on new Federal Land Bank loans—let's say 8 percent, we can find the current land use value.*

$$\frac{\$30}{.08} = \$375$$

That means that with the new law, a person would not be taxed on $60 worth of each acre ($435 − $375 = $60) at estate tax time.

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GOODYEAR

This Riding School Looks Like

There is a large waiting list of small people wanting to get into the Vocational Riding School of Puerto Rico. Those that make it are trained to be winners.

BEFORE you can get into the new specialty vocational school located in San Juan, Puerto Rico, you've got to measure up. To start with you can't weigh over 105 pounds or stand over five-feet two-inches tall.

But for those who can meet the requirements, acceptance into the program means a shot at a career that's noted for its glamour, excitement and financial payoffs.

The school, one of the most unusual vocational programs using FFA as a teaching activity is called The Vocational Riding School of Puerto Rico. Its aim is to give proper training to jockeys, horse trainers, tamers, exercisers and blacksmiths. Formally begun in November of 1974, the school has already made an impact on the horse racing industry.

An example is student jockey Victor Mercado, a February, 1976, graduate of the riding school. When *The National FUTURE FARMER* visited him in September, Victor had already won 30 races and was ranked as one of the best ten jockeys at the El Comandante track near San Juan, where over 100 jockeys participate. Two other riding school graduates, after finding initial success at the track in Puerto Rico, obtained sponsorship to the United States where they continue to be successful. Riding at one of the "big" tracks in the states is a common goal of many of the students.

"The school is a joint venture between the department of education and the island's racing commission," says Ramon C. Navarro, director of the school. "Our ultimate goal is to help improve the overall racing industry," he explains. "We are trying to train the young men and women (three girls are in the present class) to be professionals."

By the director's account poor riders often destroy their horses. "A horse is very fragile," he says, "our riders are

Racing School Director Ramon C. Navarro Espendez poses with his former student Victor Mercado.

At left, new students become acquainted with the animals in their care from both a first hand and scientific approach.

Below, surrounded by the tools of their trade, students of the riding school hold an FFA meeting in their stable classroom.

Again Victor and his mount are led to the winner's circle. On the day of our visit he won three races.

A Winner

By Gary Bye

Color Photos by Gary Bye

prepared to correct problem horses or to tell a trainer what is wrong with a horse."

In addition, Navarro says there is also a critical need for professionals in the related occupations. "Of the 25,000 horses born and raised as race horses, only 12,000 get to the track," he notes. "The industry needs qualified trainers. And there is a special need for research, particularly in the breeding of race horses."

Jockeys, trainers and the others, on top of learning the primary skills for their jobs, learn the physiological functions of the animals they deal with, as well as business aspects and the social implications of their jobs. The director and his staff of six instructors believe that FFA can play a role in preparing the students to be constructive citizens. "This program is aimed, not only at preparing workers in the horse racing industry, but also at developing good citizens," says Navarro. "Through FFA the students develop their leadership abilities, learn to participate in group activities and to appreciate agriculture as an asset to the economy and the citizens of this country."

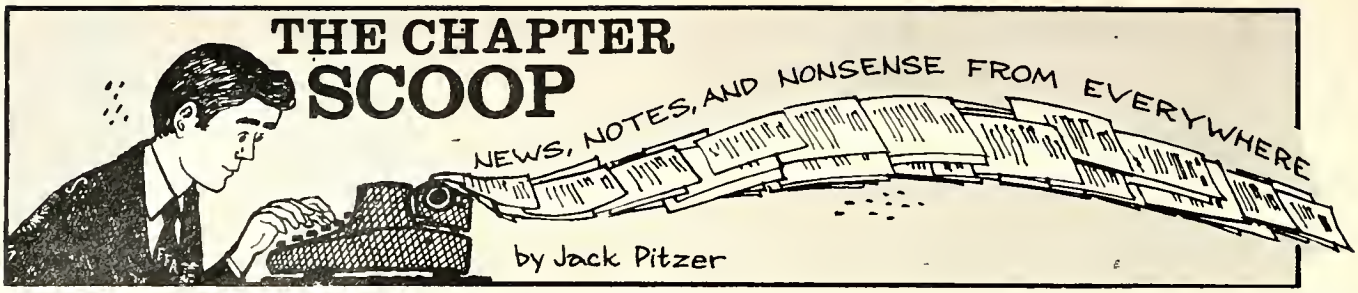
The philosophy that overrides much of the instruction that takes place at the school is that the horse racing industry is far more than the betting that takes place at the tracks. It is truly an agribusiness that depends on skilled employees at all levels.

The majority of the 30 students now involved in the training come from low income families of Puerto Rico where unemployment is a major problem. Some are formerly school dropouts. Before any of them can receive their certificate of completion from the school in their area of study they must fulfill the requirements of a high school diploma. Most of the afternoons are spent in classes for human relations, conversational English, mathematics, science and English or Spanish.

At right is Victor Mercado, now a first class jockey who supports his mother and three younger brothers. He considers riding a sport as well as a profession and trains like other athletes. At left, student gets the feel under the watchful eye of his riding instructor. Below, first real test at the El Comandante Race Track near San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The students are evaluated constantly on their progress. Some work faster than others and all are given the opportunity to work at their own speed. Course completion may take only a year for some but up to two full years for others. Student jockeys, which make up nearly half of the enrollment, receive upon graduation a provisional certificate enabling them to ride at the track. The certificate is good for 60 days and rookie jockeys must ride in at least nine official races before receiving their permanent license.

Victor Mercado had wanted to be a jockey since he was a small boy. Chances were slim that he would have ever gotten the chance without the new riding school. Now each year a few more small men and women—with big ambitions—will get the chance to realize their dream.



C. J. Riemann and **Lewis Worcester** put together an interesting slide presentation about their experiences at a National FFA Leadership Conference last year in Washington, D.C. They're *Hill City*, Kansas, FFA'ers.

N-N-N

Patrolman Bill Hansen spoke to *Redfield*, South Dakota, FFA about licensing vehicles and snowmobile regs.

N-N-N

"No Hunting" signs were made and put up by *Chamberlain*, South Dakota.

N-N-N

Braymer, Missouri, Chapter is planning a barbeque and farm tours for teenagers from the city.

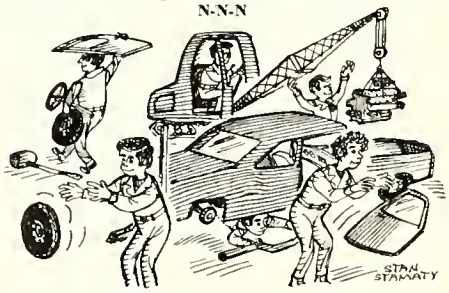
N-N-N

A boar testing program is conducted by *Bowling Green*, Missouri, members in order to improve quality of hogs for chapter sales.

N-N-N

Advance, Missouri, FFA will plant some hard maples around school.

N-N-N



This summer FFA members in *West Marshall* in State Center, Iowa, were busy marrying off their advisor. After the wedding they helped prepare his car for the trip.

N-N-N

Muscatene, Iowa, had their 50th parent-son banquet in 1976. Vo-ag department there was organized in 1926.

N-N-N

National Prexy **James Bode** visited *Assumption*, Louisiana, BOAC site.

N-N-N

"This was the most tickets we had ever sold." *Rockford*, Michigan, members sold 528 for pancake supper.

N-N-N

Mason County Vocational Chapter in West Virginia is helping with a county farm museum.

N-N-N

National FFA Vice President **Sam Brownback** of Kansas has received special recognition as a peanut butter eater and as a milk drinker. All part of publicity effort for two ag products by FFA in *Litchfield*, Minnesota and *Hartford*, Alabama.

Mariner, Washington, Chapter had a swing-a-thon for March of Dimes. It lasted 144 hours.

N-N-N

Terrie Kaufman and **Star Cody**, *Capital*, Washington, members brought a four-month-old Jersey calf to school as a prop for a demonstration on grooming and showing.

N-N-N

Four past chapter presidents of *Damascus*, Maryland, went to the '76 National Convention. **Karen Serkiz** as chapter delegate. **Duane Harper** and **Susan Butler** as team members and **Alan Boswell** to get American Farmer degree.

N-N-N

Each week *Atascadero*, California, Reporter **Connie Gibbons** tapes an interview radio program for a local station. Called FFA Highlights; it's aired on Wednesday after the 6:00 p.m. news.

N-N-N

Granton, Wisconsin, collected over 100 sacks of oats from farmers and alumni members. Chapter resold oats and used money to send two handicapped kids to camp.

N-N-N

Cape Fear of Fayetteville, North Carolina, built a float for the Inaugural Parade of Governor James Hunt who is a past state FFA president in that state.

N-N-N

Two *Loup City*, Nebraska, members entered their school's version of "The Gong Show." **Dawaine Holzinger** and **Ray Treffer** danced to the music of "Swan Lake" and won first prize.

N-N-N

Belt, Montana, members reported "We also had a hayride which was very successful with a big bonfire and lots of refreshments."

N-N-N

It's a numbers game—260 members of *North Iredell*, North Carolina, Chapter sold 1,654 cases of citrus this year.

N-N-N

When *Sandpoint* and *Bonners Ferry*, Idaho, Chapters meet for their annual basketball contest they have a Greenhand game and a game for Chapter, State, American Farmer degree holders.

The *Furr* Chapter in Houston, Texas, had a chess tournament and Greenhand **David Martin** won.

N-N-N

Four *Housatonic Valley*, Connecticut, members served as judges to pick best decorated Christmas tree in the community. Contest sponsored by a local sport shop. Winners got free cross-country ski lessons.

N-N-N

They reportedly had a womanless fashion show at the supper to initiate *Baskin*, Louisiana, Greenhands.

N-N-N

Brian Brockmann, reporter of *Belvidere*, Illinois, FFA sends word of $257.60 collection for UNICEF.

N-N-N

Four charter members from when *Waupaca*, Wisconsin, Chapter was reorganized in 1968 have become charter members of the Alumni affiliate now.

N-N-N

In *Chamberlain*, South Dakota, Advisor DeBoer gave a report that the milo was valiantly trying to make heads despite the drought.

N-N-N

Palmetto, Florida, members worked a concession stand and parked cars at a community dog show.

N-N-N

Four officers of *Harry Gates* FFA in Canton, Pennsylvania, earned State Farmer. **Keith Weaver,** president; **Clair Good,** vice president; **Steve Jackson,** secretary; **Craig McNett,** treasurer.

N-N-N

Former member of *Oshkosh West*, Wisconsin, Chapter, Doug Irvine, brought in a Morgan horse and spoke to ag classes about horse shoeing. Doug was the state proficiency award winner and now manages a stable.

N-N-N

Magoffin County, Kentucky, members built 15 school bus waiting houses for their community. On sides they lettered "Magoffin County Schools . . . Made by FFA . . . 1976."

N-N-N

Guess it's up to those new Greenhands to send us the hot Scoop about all the local chapters.

Your Five Acres

SOMEBODY tends five acres of farmland to provide the food and natural fiber for each American. This is the central theme of an exhibit, "Your Five Acres" at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago that enables city folks to see what life on the modern farm is like without messing up their shoeshines.

The central theme of the permanent display is the idea that there are five acres of farmland to provide the food and natural fiber for each American and that the industry of agriculture is large and efficient.

Understanding the contemporary agricultural situation is difficult, especially for non-farm people who often take their food for granted. The exhibits are part of an effort by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to better inform people about agriculture.

The educational exhibit features a section showing the cropland, pasture and woodland on an average farm. A mirrored display shows a table of food that seems to reach into infinity and the typical amounts of food a person eats in a year. Revolving glass trilons in a huge mural 6 feet by 26 feet will illustrate in brilliant color the relationship between expanding population, food supplies, exports and land.

Visitors at the USDA exhibit will also be able to take an entertaining and educational quiz using screens hooked to a mini-computer. "This is only the second time this equipment has been used this way," Claude Gifford, director of USDA's office of communication, explains. "A similar quiz on this equipment proved to be a very popular feature at the Bicentennial exhibit '200 Years of State and Screen' at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. last year."

A free booklet entitled "The Secret of Affluence" is provided to everyone who visits the exhibit. This USDA publication illustrates how productivity on the average five acres of farmland is the secret to the future strength of the economy.

"Each of us must depend on that five acres for our food and natural fibers," Gifford points out. "Therefore, we have a high stake in whether the farmer who farms our five-acre average is doing well enough to be able to buy the machinery and supplies to be fully productive and efficient. If he can't get the job done and conserve the soil for the future, we're all in trouble," says Gifford.

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The new IH® 830 and 720 forage harvesters.

Used to be a man needed three hands to keep a forage harvester working right going around corners.

Well, you don't need ropes, cranks or levers to operate these new International forage harvesters. They are *totally* electric.

And these remote controls are *standard*, so you just flick a switch to rotate the spout or change the angle of the discharge deflector.

Just flick a switch, even if you overload.

You won't overload these new International forage harvesters often, but if you do, you flick a switch and dual electric clutches let you reverse the rolls instantly and spit out the slug.

To keep you moving fast without wrapping or plugging, there are four large feed rolls and a big 12-knife cutterhead.

Your cutting knives stay "Hydra-Sharp."

This hydraulically-powered knife sharpener *bevels* as it sharpens, to give you continuous, maximum cutting efficiency.

With forage harvesters this maneuverable and reliable, your biggest problem will be to keep the wagons coming fast enough.

Here's why you'll pick up more hay:

The low-profile hay pickup unit is 72 inches wide, with a special open-end design that sweeps in more hay from wide or wandering windrows.

As for the row-crop units, they're adjustable for wide or narrow rows, so it's like getting two units in one. You can get the two-row unit on both models, plus a 3-row unit for the 830. And their low-profile design slides under down stalks like wind whistlin' under a door.

The best forage harvester deserves the best tractor.

To operate pto equipment like this, nothing comes close to the famous IH hydrostatic drive tractors. They give you an *infinite* choice of speeds so you can match ground speed to working conditions perfectly —and that means more work done in less time.

See the new 830 and 720 forage harvesters (and the Hydro tractors) at your IH Dealer. And be prepared to be impressed—because International is moving into forage and hay in a big way.

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All-electric remote controls keep you moving and chopping faster.

Is Your Knowledge of Market Terms Weak or Short?

A recent study shows that two-thirds of livestock producers listen to radio market reports, but far fewer actually understand market terminology.

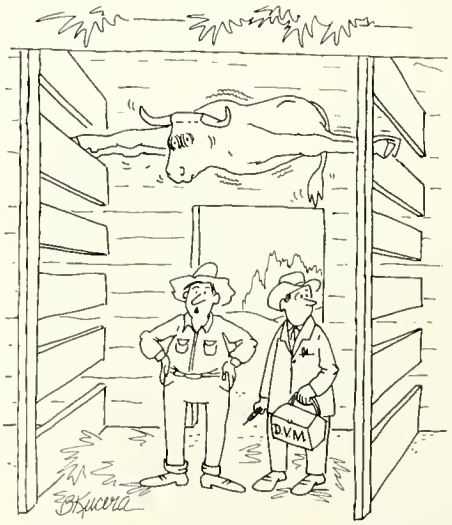
WHILE a recent University of Wisconsin study shows that two-thirds of the livestock producers studied listen to market reports, only 25 percent understood the meaning of a weak market, 5 percent understood long and 15 percent active. One exception: more than 62 percent of the producers understood the meaning of a higher market. Upshot: your understanding of livestock marketing terms might be more lopsided than you think.

"Although the study was conducted using Wisconsin farmers, I think the results are typical of the average livestock farmer since over 80 percent of all Wisconsin farm income is derived from the sale of livestock or livestock products," observes Dr. Gene Kroupa, assistant professor in the College of Agriculture who conducted the study.

If you think you could do better, consider the fact that most farmers in the study had fairly large operations (almost 400 acres), were middleaged (47 years) and had 11 years of schooling.

Like you, they represent a new generation of livestock producers and they deal with a marketing system which on the whole has changed. "It's time to re-examine marketing terms as well as our understanding of how the 'competitive' market system works," declares Jim Reynolds, director of the St. Joseph Livestock Market Foundation. A condensation of important definitions follows:

Active, firm, steady and higher. As noted earlier only 15 percent of the farmers understood the meaning of active. The correct USDA definition is when available offerings are readily clearing the market. An active market has nothing to do with price. *Higher,* of course, means the majority of sales are at prices measurably higher than the previous trading session. The market is considered *firm* when prices are tending higher, but not measurably so. The market is considered *steady* when prices are unchanged from previous trading sessions.



"That's odd, Doc . . . He was here just a minute ago!"

Weak, moderate and slow. Weak also refers to price and indicates prices are tending lower, but not measurably so. Moderate and slow, like active, have nothing to do with price. *Moderate* means volume of supplies is average for the market being reported. *Slow* means available supplies of livestock are not readily clearing the market. Only about one-quarter of the producers in the study were able to give the correct definition of these latter two terms.

"This poor understanding of market terms points up something we have been trying to do at the Milwaukee market for some time," points out Terry Ward, market relations director at Wiseonsin's Milwaukee Stockyard Company. "That is do more interpretation of market prices rather than just using the stock USDA terms to describe market volume and price movements. In fact, all of our United Stockyard Corporation livestock market directors who give radio and TV reports for our 11 markets around the United States are making every effort to better interpret our reports."

Hedge, short and long. "Understanding of futures marketing terms lags even further behind," adds Dr. Kroupa. "In our study only 5 percent of the producers could define long, 8 percent short and 20 percent correctly defined hedge."

Long is the buying of an open futures contract while *short* is the selling of an open futures contract. An open contract refers to contracts that have not been

closed by an opposite transaction or the delivery of the grain or livestock. *Hedge* means to take the opposite positions in the cash and futures markets. Margin is the difference between cash price and futures price during the trading period.

The lopsided understanding of marketing goes beyond terms to include the function of those involved in the marketing process, reasons John Hiatt, director of the Indianapolis Livestock Marketing Institute. "We discover that there is a great misunderstanding of the role of market agents, order buyers, traders, market foundations and the general term competitive markets." Hiatt provided these definitions:

Competitive Markets. These include central public markets like the major ones operated by United Stockyard Corporation at Sioux City, St. Joseph, Milwaukee, Sioux Falls, South St. Paul, West Fargo, Indianapolis, Fort Worth, Portland, Stockton and Omaha. It also includes auctions—any market where individuals or firms can compete freely with any other in buying and selling.

"A key difference is that the market is neither owned nor operated by the buyer or seller, as contrasted to a buying station that is owned by the buyer," he explains.

Market Agents. Operating from a central public market, he is a professional livestock salesman. Through daily trading experience and constant exposure to market conditions, his job is to get his customers the best possible price for his livestock. There market agents usually specialize in selling one particular species, and either feeder or slaughter classes.

They receive a standard per-head fee set by the Packers and Stockyards division of USDA and for this reason are sometimes called "commission men." Because Marketing Agents are bonded, they have always been considered by many as the safest way to market. In an age of specialization, sharp buying and financially troubled packers, many producers see the role of the marketing agent as an increasingly important one.

Order Buyer. An order buyer takes over the buying function. He saves the feeder money by purchasing the best kinds of livestock at the best price and time without the feeder having to be at the market. In addition to purchasing replacements for feeders, they buy slaughter livestock for packers. Most central public markets have resident order buyers who purchase livestock for many different packers. Many market agents are also order buyers.

Traders. A trader buys stockers and feeders for his own account, to sell, hopefully, at a profit. His presence on the public market tends to keep livestock demand steady and serves as a competitive guarantee that livestock will not be sold under their true market value.

Stockyards Company. The Stockyards Company is like the New York Stock Exchange, or the Chicago Mercantile Exchange in that it represents a place where buyer meets seller under conditions advantageous to both. The company owns the real estate, rents office space to market agencies, provides pen space, feed and water to producers who consign to the market. The company simply provides a competitive meeting place and impartial weighmasters for honest weights on every head of livestock sold.

While some producers believe stockyard companies engage in buying and selling of livestock, this is prohibited by law.

Market Foundation. These groups, which are sometimes called livestock exchanges, serve as a miniature chamber of commerce for the various market agencies (and sometimes order buyers) at each public market. The foundation is the members working together to cooperate with government regulations, police themselves, supply market news information and generally promote the yards.

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For small game hunting, our new 22 Dynapoint® cartridge gives you a 40 grain long rifle bullet that combines accuracy with the most effective mushrooming you've ever known.

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The Beef Referendum

What it is and how it will work?

Some FFA members will be eligible to vote. At press time the voting dates were not finalized so watch for them in your area.

THIS spring cattle producers across the nation will have the opportunity to vote on a beef market development program that will shape the future of their industry.

And many FFA members will be eligible to vote.

"The rules say that any enterprise that produces beef or dairy cattle—even just one head—is entitled to one vote," says O. J. Barron, chairman of the Beef Development Taskforce, a group of some 60 cattle producers that developed the plan. "There is no age limit. But for FFA members to vote, their cattle must be owned independently of parents or other relatives. So we are encouraging FFA members to study up on the program and vote since it will affect their future in the beef business."

The proposed beef market development plan is a national program designed to expand domestic and foreign markets, augment research on producer problems and improve marketing and distribution.

In short, the plan's goal is to increase profits for all producers, and develop a more profitable industry to turn over to future producers, like FFA members.

If the measure passes with a two-thirds majority of all those voting, cattle producers will invest 0.3 percent of their sales in the program. (See the accompanying story for details.)

Funds will be administered by a 68-member Beef Board appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture—and they'll all be beef producers. The Board will then contract with appropriate organizations to do the needed promotion, research and foreign market development work. These might be state universities, the National Live Stock and Meat Board, the National Dairy Council and private organizations, among others.

All cattle sales are subject to the 0.3 percent deduction, but producers who don't want to participate can get a prompt refund from the Beef Board.

FFA members must register to vote at the local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) office, then return to vote several weeks later.

Marketing

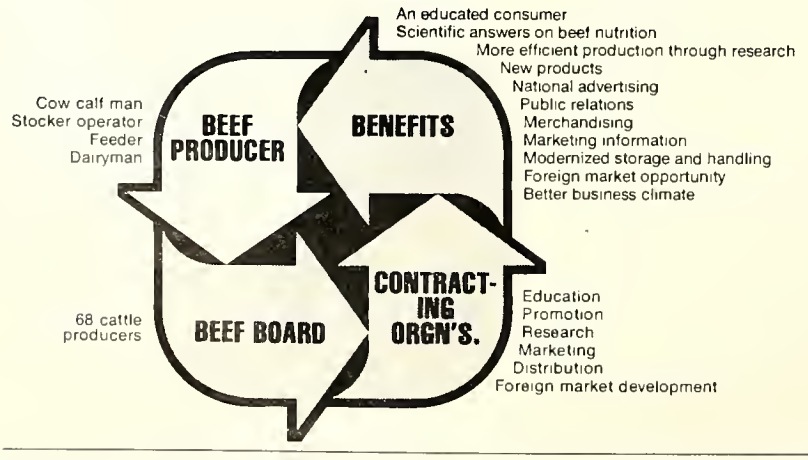
The biggest problem the cattle industry faces, according to some economists, is the lack of a coordinated industry program for orderly marketing. Consequently, boom and bust cycles have plagued cattle producers.

Many have been driven out of business. Many young farmers and feeders find it tough to get into the business.

Those who favor the plan say this can be changed through a coordinated national program supervised by the Beef Board. Education and statistics can play a role to help producers plan their marketing. Separate educational programs could be targeted for fed

(Continued on Page 42)

This flow chart by the Beef Development Taskforce explains how the program would work.



WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU? Diagram depicts the benefits of the beef market development plan. The beef producer invests 0.3% of sales to the Beef Board through voluntary deductions. The final buyer, usually the packer, is the only one to actually send money to the Beef Board. Then the 68 member Beef Board—cattle producers to be chosen from nominations by cattle organizations—contracts with various organizations to perform specific projects. The benefits accrue to every cattle producer.

The Value Added System

Here's How It Works

The value added system of uniform collection is a method of fairly assessing each producer an agreed upon percentage (in this case, 0.3 percent for the **value** he **adds** to the animal).

Here's an example of how the value added system works.

A cow-calf operation sells a weaner calf to a stocker operator for $100. Three-tenths of one percent of the value he added is deducted ($100 x .003 + $.30). The 30 cents is retained by the stocker operator by giving the cow-calf man a check for $99.70.

A few months later, the stocker operator sells the calf as a yearling to a feeder for $200. Three-tenths of one percent is deducted ($200 x .003 + $.60). The feeder retains 60 cents by writing his check to the stocker operator for $199.40. Since the stocker collected 30 cents from the cow-calf man when he bought the animal, the stocker operator himself is contributing only 30 cents . . . or three-tenths of one percent of the $100 value he added to the calf.

Eventually, the feeder sells the finished animal to a packer for, say $400. The packer deducts 0.3 percent ($400 x .003 + $1.20) and sends $1.20 to the Beef Board. The feeder receives the packer's check for $398.80 ($400 — $1.20 = $398.80).

The feeder has actually invested 60 cents, the stocker operator 30 cents and the cow-calf man 30 cents.

Each owner pays his fair share, based on the value he added to the animal, but only the packer sends money to the Beef Board.

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These Japanese wholesalers are tasting a slice of beef at the recent U.S. Meat and Poultry Show in Tokyo.

Education and better cattle statistics would help the cattle industry more effectively market their product.

Beef Referendum

(Continued from Page 40)

cattle, feeders, stockers and cull cows. For example, projected economic results of feeding cattle to extra weights could be regularly published on a regional basis. Similar economic guides could be prepared for profitable heifer replacement or cow culling strategies.

Many other innovations—like teletype auction marketing—are possible. One economist calculated that if the plan did nothing but help producers get another 10 to 15 cents per hundredweight, it would pay for itself.

Demand

Of course, sharper marketing strategies won't do the job alone. Demand must be stimulated. The stronger the demand, the higher the prices. That's a basic economic law.

To stimulate demand, the beef market development plan calls for national advertising, public relations, consumer education and merchandising innovations.

Other commodity groups have profited by similar programs. Housewives have been showered in the past few years with slogans and phrases like "make mine milk," "the Florida sunshine tree" and "natural blend shirts."

New Products

Another area that offers high potenital: new products.

Industries with the most invested in research and new product development are usually the ones with the greatest returns on their investments and the ones with the biggest profits.

The oil industry, for example, puts about 20 percent of its sales revenues back into research and new product development. The beef industry has long been at the other end of the totem pole, however, both in research and in profits. This must be changed.

And there are several new product possibilities that offer opportunity right now. One is the intermediate moisture beef product. Long in use for pet foods, more work needs to be done to get Food and Drug Administration approval for human use.

Another new product is uniform carcass beef. New machines have already been developed for flaking and reforming the carcass into uniform and completely useable cuts. Scientists believe these restructured cuts can be made as tasty and appealing as conventional cuts.

"He's got a new tractor with air conditioning, stereo tape, lights, CB radio and a coffee maker—I can't get him to come home!"

Scientists also see mechanical deboning as an area that offers much promise. This new process would save labor costs, provide more beef and add calcium to the American diet—which some nutritionists believe is deficient in calcium.

Tenderizing beef through electrical stimulation of carcasses just after slaughter is another technological breakthrough that needs more work to bring it to the packing house stage.

Overseas Sales

Foreign market sales have long been a goal of many farsighted cattlemen, but it will take a national program to really get the job done.

That's because there are plenty of obstacles, including trade benefits, bias in some countries against fattened beef, and lack of interest by U.S. packers.

But experts believe an active program of foreign market sales can be underway within five years.

There are several important markets for top-grade U.S. beef: luxury hotels, restaurants and homes in Europe and Japan, and the newly rich oil states.

U.S. variety meats—liver, tongue and other organs—also find welcome overseas because they are top quality and competitively priced. Currently, we export more than $100 million worth of variety meats each year. This could be increased if the beef industry takes steps to meet foreign standards of trim, quality, delivery terms and packaging specifications, experts say. More promotion is also needed.

Industry's Future

The actual projects that will make up the beef market development plan are to be chosen by the 68-member Beef Board. Their decisions will be aimed at making the beef cattle industry a more profitable industry.

The American farmer builds two things better than anyone else in the world. He builds the next generation, passing along a special kind of wisdom . . . respect for the soil, honesty, independence, and faith in the future. And he builds his land, leaving it better than he found it. That kind of building usually requires borrowed long-term capital. That's where we can help.

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FARM CREDIT SERVICE

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A Desire To Be The Best

The FFA has eight national judging contests. This article is about one of them and the industry it serves.

By Casey D. Garten

IT'S a cool morning at 9:00 a.m. on November 10 in downtown Kansas City, Missouri, outside the new H. Roe Bartle Exhibition Hall. Inside, FFA members from 33 states anxiously await the beginning of the National FFA Poultry Contest held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention.

A whistle blows. Ninety-nine FFA judges approach the table at which their group is to begin. Some carefully examine eggs for exterior quality in the midst of signs saying "Do Not Handle", while others evaluate the quality of broken-out-eggs in plastic dishes. Another group grades ten ready-to-cook turkeys and next to them members grade a class of ten ready-to-cook broilers hanging on racks. A fifth group candles eggs in a dark room to determine interior quality of eggs and the other three groups struggle with live chickens in an effort to place classes of four of them.

Eight minutes later another whistle blows, warning members that only two minutes remain before they must move to a new class. The final whistle blows and the noise level rises as everyone hands in their placings on cards and hurries to a new class.

Such is the scene at a poultry contest where young people put to use their knowledge about a high protein industry that ranks third as a source of agricultural income in the U.S. In addition, this rapidly developing industry is one that utilizes its by-products as well as being used in research. Fertile eggs are used in the production of human and animal vaccine and feathers and offal are used in animal feeds. Baby chicks are excellent research animals because of their availability, short generation time and sensitivity to nutritional deficiencies according to the manual.

Just as the industry rapidly changes, so does the National FFA Poultry Contest. The two-hour contest has ten classes, two of which are reason classes, according to Amos J. Kahrs, a Kansas State University instructor of poultry science and Kansas State's poultry judging team coach.

Since 1957, Kahrs has headed the national contest which is sponsored by the National FFA Foundation and Victor F. Weaver, Inc., a seller of frozen poultry products in New Holland, Pennsylvania.

"The eight classes, excluding reason, are graded according to USDA standards," Kahrs said.

The reason classes are back this year after a three-year absence. The ready-to-cook turkeys and broken-out-eggs are also new according to Kahrs.

The broken-out-eggs class was not handled well feels Jim Bennage, second-year advisor of the Burns FFA Chapter in Burns, Wyoming. The broken-outs were exposed for over two hours, and the quality of eggs deteriorate greatly during that time.

"The broken-outs were a big problem for everyone. They need to work out something different," comments Bennage.

Kahrs also noticed the problem and feels it will be corrected next year.

The eggs are graded either USDA grade AA, A, B, C, or inedible. Rick Schoonover, a high school senior from Fredonia, Kansas, and a member of the Kansas State poultry team, felt this part of the contest was the hardest because it was new for him.

What determines the quality of broken-out-eggs? When broken out in a pan such as a frying pan, the more the egg retains its general shape of the unbroken egg, the higher the grade. This means the albumen or white of the egg is thick and the yolk is perfectly round, thus covering the smallest area. In addition, it must be free of defects such as blood and meat spots to be placed in the higher grade says Kahrs.

Candling is the process used to determine interior quality of the eggs while still in the shell. Holding the egg up to a light in a dark room and letting light pass through it, the poultry judger looks for the same qualities as in the broken-outs. One additional factor is important here, that being the size of the air space at the large end of the egg.

"The smaller the air space, the better the quality since this proves the egg is fresh and has been handled properly," Kahrs said.

Changes have also taken place in the live bird part of the industry. Chicken was once an item reserved for Sunday dinner or holiday feasts since the meat then was a by-product of egg production. Now it is an everyday item. One U.S. citizen used to eat only nine pounds of poultry meat per year, but that figure today is up over 45 pounds per person.

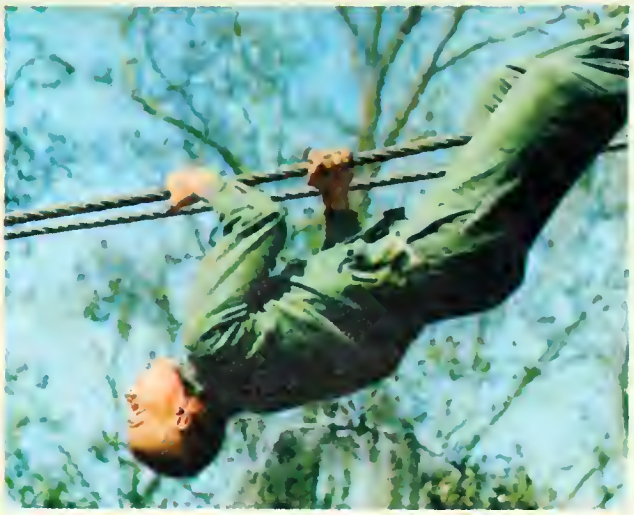
"The reason for this is because chickens have progressed from a dual purpose breed to one that specializes in both egg-type and broiler or meat-type production," says Paul E. Sanford, professor of poultry science at Kansas State.

Another change is that 99 percent of all birds today are white in color. "The reason for this is because of processor preference and consumer acceptance since white feathers do not show up as easily on the ready-to-cook birds in the grocery store," says Kahrs.

When judging live birds, there are certain aspects the FFA members look

(Continued on Page 49)

Members of a judging team during the National Poultry Judging Contest.



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LEVI'S

To Be The Best

(Continued from Page 44)

for. After catching the bird and holding it with the keel or breast in the palm of the hand and a good grip on the legs, one looks at the pigment in the beak, vent, legs and shanks.

In addition, the width of the back is measured and the primary feathers are checked for molt, the shedding of old feathers.

The members also take into account the handling quality of the birds, according to Kahrs. The judger measures with his fingers the distance between the pelvic bones and the pelvic and keel bones on the underside of the bird with the wider distances being desirable.

Handling quality also includes the thickness of the skin on the abdomen. The thinner skin is better, indicating that less feed is used for fat and more for the production of eggs.

"The bird with the least amount of pigment, best capacity, least molt, and best handling quality is your top bird," Kahrs said.

Ready-to-cook classes are not judged the same way as live birds. Each is an A, B, or C grade, depending on the amount of bruises, skin breaks, fat covring, freezer burns, conformation, fleshing, number of pinfeathers, and the degree of disjointed or broken bones.

"Usually all ready-to-cook poultry sold in retail stores are grade A, so the consumer doesn't have to worry about grade factors. All birds sold at the retail level must be marked as to grade," comments Kahrs.

One of the greatest changes in the poultry industry is the change from a large number of small farm flocks to fewer numbers of larger flocks, according to Sanford.

Just as the 98 FFA poultry judges strive to be the best, so does the poultry industry as it constantly changes to improve itself to battle the ever increasing world demand for food.

"He caught her drinking coffee on her milk break!"

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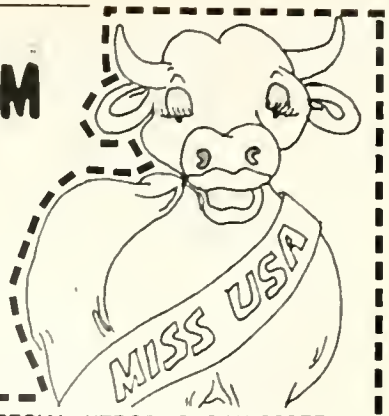

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Kent keeps accurate records of the various jobs he fills and records them on cassette tapes for future references.

One way to spread the word about the K.K. Kompany is by putting out announcement cards listing services offered.

Need Work, Call Kent

WHEN they can't get the job done, they call Kent. That's Kent Kingman, a North Kitsap, Washington, FFA'er who's built quite a job placement service in the community.

"One thing Kent had going for him was an enterprising nature," says Advisor David Myers. "Because of this willingness to try anything and to work hard at jobs given him, he found it difficult to answer all job offers." That led to a family business, K. K. Kompany, with sister Kochelle as secretary and his Mom as manager. That was February, 1975, and Kent was 15.

Besides doing many of the jobs himself, 420 job placements have gone to 130 teenagers, 38 housewives, 18 men and 4 children. They pay 10 percent of their wages to K. K. Kompany for two months if it's a full time job or for three months if it's only part time.

Job requests come in by telephone and Kent has to get the right worker for the job. Often that's Kent or his brother Kurt, who is chapter president and managing a 160-acre farm. Sister Kochelle often gets assignments as does older brother Kelley when he's home from college.

Typical job placements Kent has filled are for sheep shearers, baby-sitting, house workers and companions for the elderly and clean up projects.

In order to help spread the word about the kinds of jobs K. K. Kompany can do, Kent has distributed 16,000 four by five cards which give all the information needed to make contact. The sample list includes: handyman work, truck hauling, chain saw, carpentry, babysitting, photography, pruning, yard work, tutoring, nursing, typing, landscaping, fence building, fire wood delivered, painting, house sitting, pet sitting, house cleaning and mowing. Recently they've added small construction jobs.

Cards are put out in "Take One" boxes in the bank, grocery stores and about 75 other public places. Another attraction about the cards is the 10 per cent discount offer on the back for evening dinner meals at a popular restaurant in the community.

One of the latest outgrowth of K. K. Kompany is involving retired people who are willing to share knowledge with younger people. A retired contractor helps Kent with the small construction jobs like replacing a barn roof, building a foundation for a garage and tool shed and building a porch on a house. In fact, another adult in the community is anxious to learn construction under the senior citizen when K. K. Kompany has enough work for a full time job.

As a freshman Kent's earnings totalled about $535, but have jumped to over $6,000. "Being a 3.6 student and a starter on our undefeated basketball team which has been ranked second in the state also gives Kent's name a lot of exposure," says Advisor Myers.

When business picked up beyond the community and long distant calls started, Kent was quick to see an opportunity and added a manager in a nearby community to help coordinate workers and jobs there.

The you-need-it-done-we'll-do-it attitude of Kent and his family plus fellow workers is providing an extensive job placement service for the Poulsbo community.

"Looks like the rumors we heard about the new teacher giving out a lot of homework are true!"

Photo by Author

The farm labor market has shifted toward a new breed of farm employees.

Closing the Gap For Farm Workers

Both the farm employer and farm worker must take another look at the problem to find a solution.

By Gary Bye

"JUST can't find good, responsible help these days," mumbled the aging farm manager, shaking his head slowly as if in disbelief. "I just don't understand why, if people are so concerned about unemployment, we have such a hard time finding somebody to work on the farm."

The same conversation or ones similar to it can be heard today in just about any one of the 50 states in the country. Farm managers are finding that while the need for higher quality labor on farms is accelerating, less of that highly skilled labor required is making itself available.

According to a study made by the College of Agriculture Research Center at Washington State University, the problem is really two-sided. Few farm employers are really looking seriously at what kind of employment package (salary, incentives, benefits and working hours) it takes to make working on a farm competitive with other occupations. At the same time too few qualified students investigate or even seriously consider the possibility of farm employment as a career choice.

Agriculture can in no sense be considered a labor shortage sector. Even so there are still nearly 250,000 farms that employ upwards of 650,000 full time workers, according to the 1969 census.

Employers cite as reasons for their difficulty in filling jobs with qualified employees, the increasing complexities and sophistication in production processes and tight profit margins. The size of the average farm continues to grow and the amount of money necessary to run these larger operations is increasing even faster. Manual labor requirements have stabilized or even decreased. Under these conditions the farm operation requires more advanced management techniques. There is an increased risk of greater losses under such conditions.

Hiring poorly trained employees has become hazardous to the continued existence of many farm firms. Most top managers feel paying higher salaries to well-trained workers more than pays its own way due to increased profits for the firm.

With such factors in mind the farm labor market has shifted toward a new breed of farm employee. The focus is upon attracting the young person with an agricultural background, formal training in technical agriculture and management subjects and a strong interest and feel for the art of farm management.

Why do students in the formative stages of career development shy away from farm employment? For many the shadow of "hired man" or "hired hand" hangs heavy over the scene. Too often they see the stereotype—a person of little formal education, possessing only the elementary communicative and analytical skills and one who works long hours for room, board and a subsistence wage. Yet according to Dr. LeRoy Rogers, one of the authors of the study, many of the tasks required of the farm worker are nearly identical to those assumed by the farm owner or operator.

A questionnaire used to provide information on the attitudes and expectations of agriculture students towards career alternatives, particularly farm employment was used in a survey of 320 agriculture students. Included were 109 vocational agriculture students in eight Washington high schools, 93 farm management students in three community colleges and 118 students in an upper division farm management class at Washington State University. Four out of ten sample students said that self-employment farming (farming for themselves) would be their first choice of occupation. Unfortunately according to placement data at Washington State an average of only two of ten realize this goal. These figures reveal that many students, unable to farm but wanting the farm life, constitute a labor pool that would be important to farm employers.

While according to the survey many of the students said they would be willing to work for slightly less in order to obtain a steady job on a farm, the students' anticipated earnings as a farm laborer exceeded the actual average income for such workers by over $100 per month. Those things listed by the students as major disadvantages to a farm worker, in addition to lower salaries, were the limited opportunity for employees to be responsible for decisions and the long working hours.

What the survey points out to farm employers seems unmistakable. If they are going to compete successfully for trained agricultural graduates, starting salaries including fringe benefits cannot

be much more than $50 per month below that offered by competing industries. "One solution to this disparity in income levels may come from different kinds of incentive payments to the workers," notes Rogers. "This may be through profit sharing or by allowing the worker to share in the operation, for example, raising a few cows of his own among the farm owner's."

There is also a crucial need to reduce working hours and days worked to a comparable level with competing occupations. Farm workers in 1973 averaged 312 days worked per year compared to 243 working days for non-farm workers. Farm employees must of course recognize the need for long hours during selected seasons of the year.

Farm employers would also be well advised to capitalize on the two need categories where farm employment has a definite edge in the minds of students over other occupations. Students believed that farm employment provides for more independence on the job. They also viewed the rural farm setting as a desirable environment in which to reside and raise a family. Farm employers will also find it helpful in recruiting and keeping good people to move high performers quickly into responsible positions where decisions are made. This desire for responsibility was noted increasingly among college and university students. Changes in this direction will not only make farm work more interesting and challenging, but will help enhance the social status of farm employees as a group.

The current high level of unemployment nationally, particularly among young people, may modify these conditions in the short run, but in the longer term, farming will have to compete on an earnings per hour basis or accept those remaining in the labor force after other industries have had their pick.

Colleges of agriculture have long recognized the trend toward a declining proportion of their graduates who are returning to farms either as self-employed farmers or as employees. This has been a factor in the relatively recent development of classes and curricula designed to prepare students for employment in business related to agriculture, business, government and other non-farm occupations.

Agriculture students in colleges typically express a keen preference for many facets of farm work and rural living. Yet, few actively seek farm employment as a career.

Thus, this situation appears as a paradox. On the one hand is the expressed need for highly trained and qualified people. On the other is the sizable number of farm youth graduating from colleges of agriculture who have the required technical qualifications and prefer farming and life in a rural setting.

What appears needed is a clearer understanding on the part of farm employers of what is required to attract qualified people for responsible positions and on the part of agricultural students, the need to investigate the number of substantial job opportunities in farm employment.

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"Backpacking is a special kind of camping," says experienced woodsman Walt Powell. "You can make your camp in a fresh clean site away from a dusty trail, and you are not disturbed or awakened by other campers, for there are none nearby. You fish in almost untouched waters. It is the simplest, most flexible and least expensive way of penetrating and enjoying the interior regions of the mountain areas."

Backpacking is really advanced camping and should be tried only by those who have hiked mountain or forest trails. This sport requires a certain amount of stamina and a genuine liking for the isolation of remote country. One thing that pushes many into trying backpacking is the love of fishing, and nowhere is there better fishing than in these wilderness areas.

This is an adventure that will become increasingly difficult to find. This is magnificent scenery never seen from a road, long days on unbeaten trails, the purest air you ever tasted, the pungent smell of wood smoke in a piney forest, delicious open air meals matched by bottomless appetites, a pleasant tiredness, and sleep where the earth meets the sky until you are awakened by the sun.

Wilderness backpacking is not limited to strong men. It can be a family vacation. One group of hikers were surprised when they saw an elderly woman sitting on a light metal folding chair beside a trail. "The others in the family are ahead," she said, "packing in gear for an overnight campout." She was hiking in easy stages, resting when she needed to, and thoroughly enjoying every minute of the trip.

There are countless places to which backpackers can go. As a starter try an overnight trip to a favorite mountain or fishing stream. Follow an unmarked trail that seems inviting or the abandoned woods road no longer passable by car.

Within the 154 National Forests in 39 states and Puerto Rico are 182 million acres—all open to backpacking—and over 105,000 miles of trails. The Appalachian Trail winds from Mount Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in Georgia. In the West, the Pacific Crest Trail twists and turns through the Cascades and the Sierra from Canada to Mexico.

In the National Forest land has been set aside specifically for wilderness heritage. The Forest Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture has during the past 30 years put about 14½ million acres in 84 different areas into the National Forest Wilderness System. Within these areas there are no roads, no mass recreation developments, and no timber

(Continued on Page 58)

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This entire family with four children hiked the trails of a National Forest.

Camping

(Continued from Page 56)

cutting. These areas range from the 5,000-acre Great Gulf Wild Area on Mount Washington, New Hampshire, to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, which sprawls across 1,239,800 acres within four National Forests in Idaho and Montana.

The equipment you will need is quite simple and inexpensive. Items needed are: sleeping bag, mattress, cooking utensils (a nesting set), dishes, cutlery, rain poncho, flashlight with extra batteries and bulb, first aid kit, bug dope, maps, suntan lotion, dark glasses, rope, toilet tissue, knife, hatchet, pliers, matches (in waterproof pouch), soap, towel, needle and thread, safety pins. Take along some candles to light the fire in case the wood is damp and does not catch quickly with a match.

Veteran backpackers pride themselves on being able to travel light. They measure out just the right amount of food needed and put it in plastic bags, they carry scouring pads with built-in soap and cut towels in half.

How much should one carry? In an average family, the father may carry 50 pounds, the mother, 35, and teenage boys, 38 and girls, 25. A lot depends on the terrain.

What kind of pack? There are three kinds: the packboard, the frame and the rucksack. Most use the modern version of the packboard, a lightweight aluminum packframe, angled at the shoulder and waist to fit the contours of the body with only nylon bands resting against the back. Buy foam rubber pads for the shoulder straps, ready-made at sporting stores.

Boots should fit comfortably over two pairs of socks, one thin and one thick. They should protect the ankles, support the foot, and withstand long mileage on rocks and roots. They should be broken in before the trip, but don't start out with a pair too well worn. Many women use saddle shoes or other sturdy flat-heeled oxfords with rubber soles.

But even though you are roughing it, remember that an air mattress is essential to a good night's sleep. You can buy light and durable air mattresses for backpacking and many campers use them. They are made of plastic, nylon, or rubber. The important thing is selecting one with the right weight and durability. Most people blow up their air mattresses too much. A good test is to sit on the mattress. You should feel the ground only slightly. Deflating the mattress is simple: before rising, take out the plug and let your body weight help push out the air.

Getting lost can be a problem but don't worry too much about it. It's all part of the excitement of backpacking. As a precaution, however, study a map of the area before going into it. Experi-

"You really can't blame the ranger, Steve . . . you've gotten lost three times this year."

enced backpackers often pinpoint on the map their positions on the ground at rest stops and locate various peaks. Some even had practiced using maps on strange trails before starting the first trip.

If this doesn't work, build a fire and keep it going. If the weather is good and a Forest Service lookout is on duty, he will send someone to investigate. Use green boughs to make a dense smoke and little flame

In picking a campsite, look for drinking water, fuel wood, level ground, warmth, and shelter. For full enjoyment hold out for a view when possible. Pitch the tent where it gets morning sun, so it can dry out before it is packed. Note the wind direction in deciding which way to face. The wind will blow from a lake onto the shore and down a canyon at night; in reverse during the day.

In the wilderness most water will be pure enough to drink. When in doubt, boil it. Or take along purifying tablets.

Although many backpackers carry just a sleeping bag, it is best to carry some kind of shelter. There are lightweight tents designed for backpackers that have the advantage of protection. With a floor and a netting over the entrance they are insect, animal and waterproof. Stakes slightly larger than a nail and lightweight telescopic aluminum poles rolled in the tent make a compact package.

A shelter need not be a tent. A nylon ground cloth or a large piece of plastic with grommets along the sides can be tied up to trees to give shelter.

In some places the backpacker might eliminate the tent by using three-sided trail shelters which have been located along many trails for the convenience of hikers. These shelters follow a general pattern. A slightly raised platform in back is to sleep on and can accommodate from eight to ten people. In front is a firepit usually with a large back rock to reflect the heat of the fire into the shelter. There is some type of sanitary facility nearby and good water.

You must keep the food simple on a backpacking trip. Companies catering to campers have developed one-dish meals such as beef and spuds, chicken and rice, beef and macaroni. You can use instant rice, instant potatoes, instant puddings, dried soups. One family spent less than $1.15 per person per day for food.

Before starting on a real trip it would be wise to try a trial run first to test your stamina and skill. Nothing will be more valuable than this first attempt to tone the muscles and show up mistakes in your plans. During such a short trip no one will suffer unduly if the master check list is incomplete and some essential has been left at home.

Nothing like a riverside camp sight.

For specific information about a proposed trip write to the Supervisor of the National Forest in which you would like to park, or write to the U.S. Forest Service, Washington, D.C.

When your trip is over you may feel an irresistable urge to remain in the woods, to live this natural, simple life. Come back for you can always return any weekend or any vacation time. (*By Raymond Schuessler*)

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Shakespeare. That's how.

FFA in Action

New Ulm members installed home smoke detectors with the selling price.

Safety Salesmen

The New Ulm, Minnesota, FFA carried out a variety of safety projects this past year which helped get all members involved in safety work.

The sale and distribution of smoke detectors was a very well accepted project. "We were able to buy them direct from a large concern in the Twin Cities and by case lots, so we were able to get a good price."

Members sold the detectors at a cost price as a community service and safety project. Members installed both AC and DC smoke detectors.

The chapter's goal was to get one in over 20 percent of the community's homes which was four above the goal the manufacturer said they would be able to achieve. The program is selling itself as measured by all the requests that have come in over the past several months. "The personal contact is what members feel make the big difference."

In addition to smoke detectors, the chapter has distributed farm life-saving kits and put them on farms.

All members received instruction in life saving. Plus a team of members presented a life saving demonstration at various community meetings. (*Gary Thome, Advisor*)

Potted Trees

Fifty Future Farmers from the Camden and Campbell, California, Chapters met with other volunteer organizations at a local college on the outskirts of San Jose, California.

The occasion was to plant 50,000 trees in pots as part of the celebration of San Jose's two hundredth year as a city in California.

After three hours the FFA members finished potting some 3,000 Douglas Firs. Next fall the trees will be given away to the people of San Jose who in return will plant them on public land. (*Kirk Rattene, Campbell District Reporter*)

A Lamb Feed

Parents and members of the Redwood, California, Chapter were treated at the chapter's second annual lamb dinner held in conjunction with the yearly public speaking contest.

Fresh lamb was served hot off the chapter's barbeque to the 200 members and guests that filled Redwood's cafeteria. After a leisurely dinner the chapter officers opened the meeting and proceeded with business which was the holding of the public speaking contest.

Members giving speeches included Mitch Knox, Lori Lang, Donald Pacheco, Wayne Zimmerman, Gary Brown, Lee Zimmerman, Kevin Matteson and John Sylvia.

While the judges adjourned to decide on the winners, Russ Bassett, American Farmer from the Redwood Chapter, gave a presentation on his trip to the National FFA Convention. When the judges returned with the results Lee Zimmerman had won with Kevin Matteson getting second and Lori Long, third. Lee will now progress to sectional finals. (*Lee Zimmerman, Reporter*)

In 1976, the South Rich, Utah, Chapter was chartered with 12 members. Now it has 31. Chapter activities involving members have been organized like the field trip with the Soil Conservation Service. Member Robert Rachau, center, and Larry Vernon compare soils.

Horse Ride for Dimes

There were 150 riders that showed up early in the morning, December 4, to begin a 15-mile trail ride to help fight birth defects. The Chino, California, Chapter's March of Dimes horse ride-a-thon topped their success of last year. The pledges this year amounted close to $3,000.

Last year Chino FFA was honored at the annual March of Dimes Convention in San Francisco for their active participation and support of the March of Dimes. Last year, they earned $2,000

(Continued on Page 62)

The Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, FFA Chapter received permission to produce a special patch for all FFA members attending the Oklahoma Alumni sponsored Leadership Camp. The first patch went to their State President Dee Sokolosky.

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FFA in Action

(Continued from Page 60)

on the ride. As a result of the success gained by their unusual activity, there has been great interest aroused at the national levels for organizing other such ride-a-thon events.

Also at the ride the FFA put on a mini horse show and invited many community groups. The National Guard brought a demonstration of some old cavalry techniques. The San Bernadino Sheriff's posse rode with the FFA group and provided security. To help with first-aid care, the local Explorer Scouts were invited.

The hard-working crew that staged the ride-a-thon were Geri Graybill, chairperson; Lance Barns, communications; Arlene Verburg, treasurer; Tammy Santo, publicity; Nanette Hanson, refreshments; Lucy Benedict, mailing; and Becky Meidinger, Sandy Maxwell and Wally Abbott. (*Tammy Santo*)

Tree Pick Up

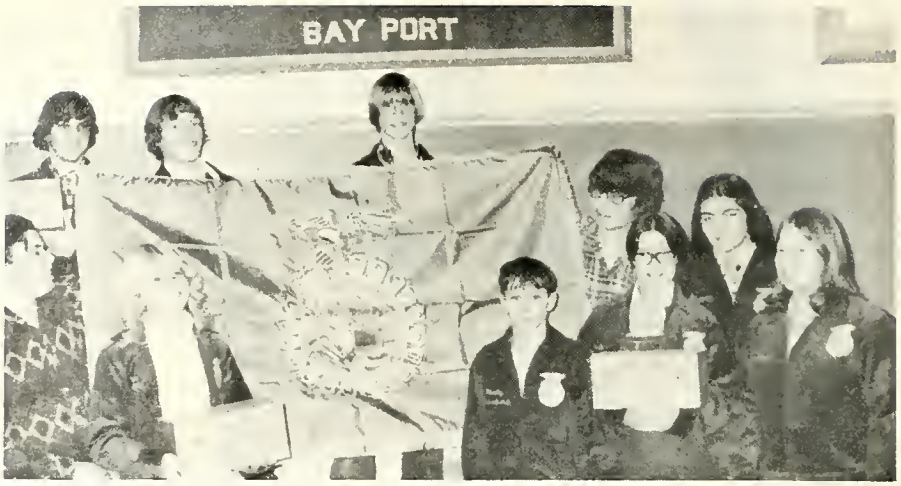
Every year around the first week in January, Christmas trees line the roads wasting away. But this year the Stoughton, Wisconsin, FFA put the trees to good use by sponsoring a Christmas tree pick-up.

The project was started by Stoughton's BOAC committee and was approved by the chapter at a monthly meeting. This started the ball rolling and within a few weeks the entire plan was set.

The plan was to have pick-up points around town. From these points the trees would be transported to a wildlife farm in a neighboring community. Once the trees were at the farm, they would be used as a rabbit habitat or a "rabitat" as it was advertised on posters.

Originally, it had been planned to use trucks to carry the trees. However, after some experimenting it was discovered that throw-baler hay wagons were easier to use.

Chapter members discovered a new use for a hay wagon—hauling trees.



These Wisconsin Future Farmers sold one of their state's most popular agricultural products, cheese, in a fund raising campaign throughout their community.

The city sanitation service helped the chapter by dropping off many trees at one point. The chapter picked up about 850 trees. (*Jeff Peterson, Reporter*)

Some Schedule

The Battle Ground, Washington, FFA has had three very busy months and they don't plan on slowing down.

In October the FFA held their second annual barbeque, where they introduce the officers and orient parents as to what the Battle Ground FFA is planning on doing during the coming year.

Later the FFA participated in the sixty-sixth annual Pacific International Livestock Exposition held in Portland, Oregon. The following members led tours: Vern White, Frank Reddig, Stuart Rafferty, Tim Pope and Karen Strong. Exhibitors at the exposition were Robert Fros, Alan Chase and Bob Alexander. There was also a holders contest. During the contest, Lon Allworth, Terry Nickels and Rick Belisle exhibited the animals being judged. Rick Belisle took grand showman at this judging contest.

Like most chapters Battle Ground sent members to the National Convention in Kansas City. Jon Klug, Richard Rhoades and Warren Lindberg earned the right to be on the Washington State FFA horticulture team, while James Mason fiddled his way to the convention as a talent team member.

The different areas of agriculture worked together during the Christmas season with the forestry classes selling Christmas trees, ag mechanics making Christmas tree stands and the horticulture classes making wreaths.

The Battle Ground FFA also has a wildlife club which has been working with the Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge setting up experimental plots so they can find out what kind of plants the ducks and geese prefer. (*Bob Alexander, Reporter*)

Say Cheese

In a fund-raising venture, the Bay Port FFA in Green Bay, Wisconsin, joined forces with Lake to Lake Dairy and set out to sell the company's cheeses to the area residents.

Their goal was to sell enough cheese to match the profits they received from the previous year's fruit sale. FFA sold 800 pounds of cheese to raise money for educational trips, awards and equipment. Advisor Larry Etienne added that the students had gained valuable experience in meeting people, and practicing business management and sales techniques.

The chapter hopes to make the cheese sale an annual event.

Speak for Your Supper

The Burns, Wyoming, FFA held their local creed and speech contest following a chili supper sponsored by the Burns FFA Alumni.

Creed speaking judges Ed Stoner, Harvey Coe and Calvin Fogg picked Monty Talkington and Ron Burkett as

(Continued on Page 66)

"Steve, the front office is screaming for that summary on hog prices."

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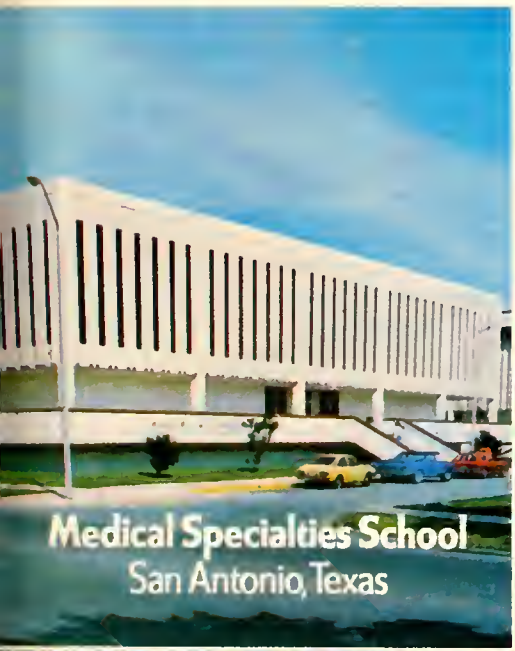

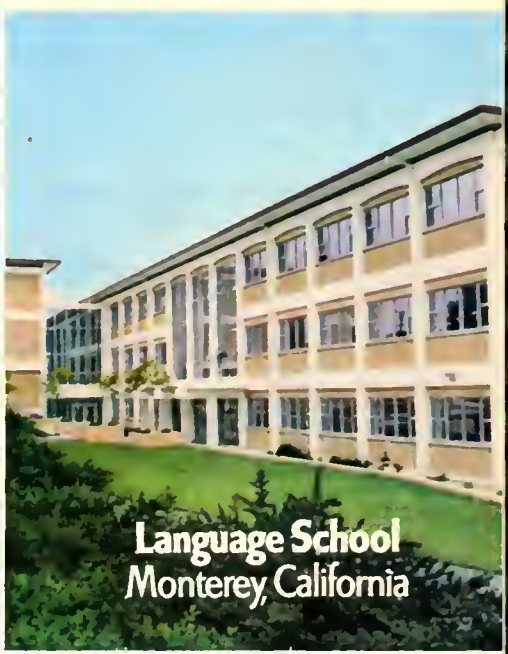

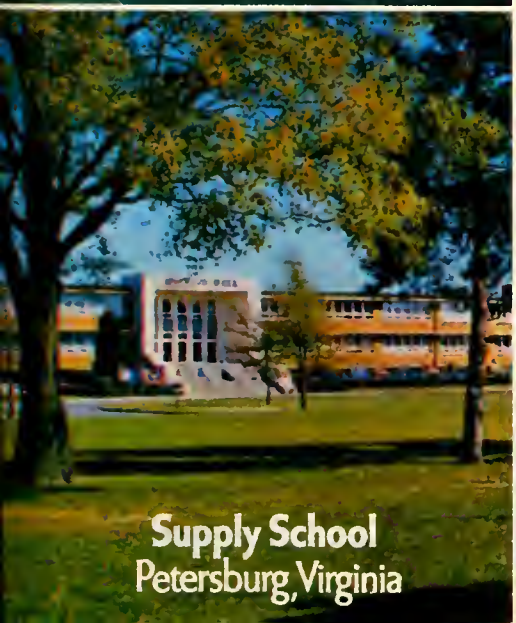

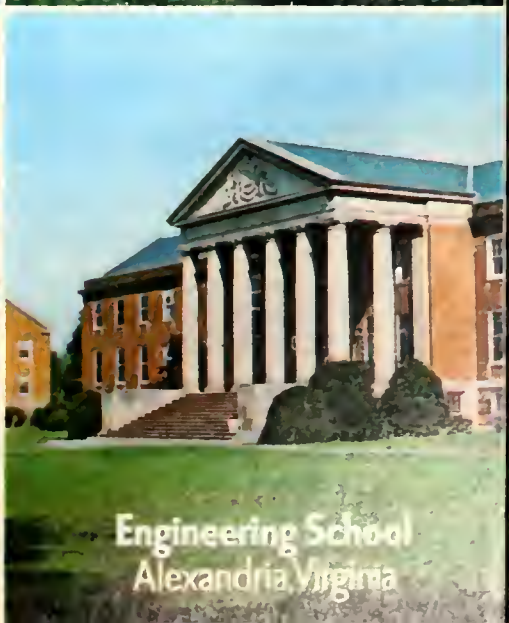

FFA in Action

(Continued from Page 62)

the winners who will represent the Burns FFA at the district creed speaking contest in Cheyenne. Other contestants in the event were Jack Clayton, Ja Gassaway, Ivan Kranz, Rocky Stoner, Chris Reeder, John Smith, Mike Abeyta and Jo Lynn Wayman.

Public speaking contest winners were John Price and Craig Spatz. They too will advance to the district contest. Cathy Doren and Melissa Harding also competed in the event. Judges for the contest were Chuck Smith, Harry Epler, and Martha Thompson.

Chapter Hostess

The annual Future Farmers of America dance hosted by Santa Maria, California, was held December 3. Dancing to the music of Mesa Mud were students of both Santa Maria and Righetti High Schools.

Announcement of Santa Maria Chapter Sweetheart was a highlight of the evening.

The sweetheart this year was chosen on the basis of each girl's score on a written test based on the FFA Manual, an interview scored by a chosen panel, poise, personality and a speech delivered by each girl along with popular vote. The scores and votes were counted and not disclosed until the night of the dance.

A flowing fountain outside City Hall in Ceres, California, wouldn't hold water. So FFA decided to beautify it. From left are Randy Lott, Chris Crum, Sarah Beck, Ray Stacy, along with the FFA chapter advisor, Sandy Newsome.

Angel Calvert, a freshman at Santa Maria, was announced as the chapter sweetheart by President Ray Bognuda and Dance Supervisor Jeff Jeffrey. First runner-up was Kelly Tanner, a junior, with Gail Harris, a senior and Kathy Wilson, a freshman, the remaining candidates.

The sweetheart's duties will include being hostess to visitors to the high school where she will talk of the FFA activities and explain any agricultural courses observed. She will compete in the regional and state sweetheart contests where she will take a written test, be interviewed by a panel and be judged on her poise and personality. She will be in competition with over 100 other sweethearts from chapters throughout the state. (*Karen Chapman, Reporter*)

Sister Chapters

Two FFA chapters, located approximately 15 miles apart in southwest Missouri, work side by side, year-round, striving to be the best.

Carthage FFA and Carl Junction FFA have both been awarded the Gold Emblem Chapter award spur for their outstanding programs and activities on both the state and national levels. Both chapters earned the title for the past two years.

The unusual aspect of these two chapters receiving Gold Emblems is the cooperation between the chapters. Activities are planned together each year. Major cooperative activities between the chapters vary from traveling to camps, contests, conventions and fairs to sponsoring activities at the Jasper County Youth Fair. The fair activities consist of a tractor pull, tractor driving skills contest, pop stand, and a chil-

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WESTERN LIVESTOCK JOURNAL

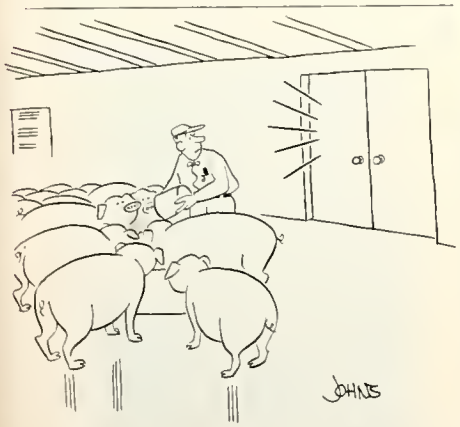
Six members of Doland, South Dakota, earned the State Farmer degree this year. From left, Jan Houghtaling, Jim Koslowski, Dan Wieting, George Rahm, Reid Mayer and Monte Mason. It was the most for any one chapter. Advisor Siebrasse is in front center.

dren's barnyard, all of which are sponsored by the chapters.

Judging contests fill the calendar beginning in January and the two chapters compete in judging contest workouts and alternate setting up practice contests for the teams of both chapters.

It's a constant struggle between Carl Junction and Carthage for the best and number one position in contests and other competitive events. The first objective of any member from either of these chapters is to be better than the other chapter and its members. Members of both chapters strive to outdo the other chapter causing determination and drive to develop in all members involved. Carl Junction and Carthage FFA Chapters have a reputation in Missouri for being leading chapters. Only five chapters in Missouri received the Gold National Award last year. The members are proud of their chapters.

Chapter advisors are Mr. Dan Flanders and Mr. Dan Prosser of Carl Junction and Mr. Jim Honey and Mr. Jerry Crownover of Carthage. (*Marcia Weng, Carthage Reporter and Jamie Walker, Carl Junction Reporter*)



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FFA in Action

(Continued from Page 67)

Helping Hay

New Holstein, Wisconsin, FFA members helped a fellow member, Randy Guelig, and his father Joe Guelig, an alumni member. The Guelig's 40 foot by 100 foot 60-stanchion dairy barn burned to the ground. The fire also took 14,000 bales of hay and a few tons of small grains.

All but 15 head of young stock were saved and moved to several neighbors' barns for milking.

To help, the fellow FFA'ers decided to collect hay and give it to the Gueligs to aid in re-establishment of their farm.

FFA members divided the school district into 14 regions and 14 regional foremen were chosen to contact local farmers to donate two to ten bales of hay each. With the droughty summer any hay was scarce, and when available, was expensive. Over 110 farmers were contacted and nearly 1,000 bales collected by 93 FFA members. (*Dave Turba, Reporter*)

Promotion Promoters

Folks in the small rural community of Otis, Colorado, located 160 miles east of Denver, know there is an FFA chapter nearby. The Otis Chapter has been involved all year in promoting vocational agriculture and FFA in their quiet agricultural community.

When the barn of a fellow member and an alumni member burned, FFA collected hay to feed the dairy cows.

The local chapter decided to sponsor monthly trap shoots to provide the people with an opportunity to sharpen their shootin' eye. The Blue Rock shoots have proven very successful for the FFA so an incentive has been added to increase participation. The FFA bought a Marlin 12-gauge shotgun and two rock throwers which will be awarded to the high point shooters of the year. These awards will be given away at the chapter's parent-member banquet this spring.

The FFA chapter also took advantage of the week-long celebration of National FFA WEEK this year by having several different promotional activities.

This is a photo of a latch-hooked rug made by Nora Ross of Dade City Senior Chapter in Florida. It is a rug/wall hanging of the FFA emblem and took 50 hours to complete over a three-month period. She developed the canvas for the project by transferring a large emblem onto the canvas, then filled in the design with wool yarn in the official colors of blue and gold.

Sunday afternoon, the citizens were out "shooting holes in the sky" during the monthly trap shoot. Many members of FFA were present, some working—some participating, but all having a good time.

Monday was the regularly scheduled night meeting of the FFA and after the business meeting, Shelly Dennis provided cake and punch. The vo-ag I class consisting of ten FFA members designed and set up a display in the lobby of the bank. The vo-ag II class with five members took on the task of putting up "Welcome" signs on the outskirts of Otis which turned out well.

Wednesday the chapter involved the entire high school by providing a hayride to the lunchroom (which is six blocks from the high school and back). Thursday the FFA made and passed out cookies and milk to all high school and junior high students and visited with each class about the FFA. Friday the members designated as official dress day even though most members wore official dress all week long.

The Otis FFA Chapter also sponsored free coffee at a local cafe each morning from 9:00-11:00 a.m. during FFA WEEK. Two members served coffee each day and visited with the businessmen about FFA.

The chapter feels that it takes these kinds of activities in the community to help gain support of the people. (*Eric Hefty, Reporter*)

The Queen Selection

The Murtaugh, Idaho, FFA Chapter chose a chapter sweetheart in a little different way this year.

Contests were held each day during the week with the girls competing in a shooting contest, cake decorating, auctioning cakes off, setting siphon tubes and milking a cow.

Members and candidates all had fun with Bethany Perkins the new chapter sweetheart for 1976-77. (*Sandy Rice* and *Toni Hoffman*)

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FFA in Action

(Continued from Page 69)

Tractor Attraction

The annual tractor pull of St. Vrain Valley FFA Chapter in Longmont, Colorado, is a part of the Boulder County Fair and Rodeo. The chapter does the planning and all of the work while the fair gives the arena and lights, sound and security. In return FFA also receives one quarter of the proceeds.

Entries come from the surrounding areas of Longmont. "We have had Weld, Larimer and Boulder county participants as well as other northeastern Colorado entries."

The winner of this year's sweepstakes pull was Dennis Seewald of Platteville, Colorado. Last year's winner Danny Glantz, was an FFA member.

Over $3,400 in prizes and awards are presented to the drivers. The chapter makes about $2,500 annually for their efforts. "We have had tremendous local business and dealer support. Our area dealers rotate the duty of furnishing equipment for pull back and weight tractors. Businessmen sponsor all of the trophies but one which the chapter sponsors."

"We are now making plans and rule adjustments for our seventh annual pulling contest for the fall of 1977. In the beginning, the pull was an outgrowth of a tractor operation maintenance and safety course taught in vo-ag classes."

Seven local FFA members and many of our young farmers were participants last year. "We held our first pull at an area fertilizer plant. Fair officials became enthusiastic and invited us to pull at the fair." Over 25 FFA members and parents are involved annually. (*Karen Lightsey, Reporter*)

The Field Out Back

The first year for the Blue Earth, Minnesota, Future Farmers of America demonstration farm is history. The crops are in, the fields are plowed and all the finances have been settled.

The project, a joint effort by the board of education and the FFA, is now in the planning stage to continue next year.

The demonstration farm received its start about one year ago when the school board inquired of the FFA if they would be interested in farming the 36-acre field south of the football field. The FFA had previously farmed a six-acre plot for many years.

The farm serves two functions for the group. One, it does provide extra income for the group. The major use of the farm is to broaden the vo-ag class room into a land laboratory.

The sophomore ag production class uses the demonstration farm for lessons on soil judging, land measurement, sprayer calibration and tillage.

The senior ag management class uses the bookkeeping portion of the project for exercises on record keeping, income tax and depreciation.

The farm is open to the community and area farmers. The FFA works closely with local businesses and agencies to attempt to make it a valuable tool for use in all phases of crop agriculture.

The 43-acre facility is used as a testing plot for a variety of chemicals and cultural practices. This last year tests were done on the use of carry-over fertilizer on wheat on a portion of the land.

Five varieties of corn were used to test yield, moisture and weight difference in 2½-acre plots. The soybean field was used to test six different kinds of preplant incorporate chemicals. During the 1977 crop season a test has been started on the use of anhydrous ammonia, fall versus spring application. This is on wheat ground going into corn.

A fall tillage demonstration has also been started involving five different methods of tilling corn stalks for beans. No decision has been made on the remaining plot.

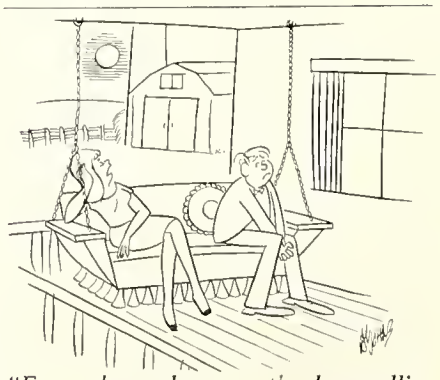
The past year six acres of wheat were grown with a 63-bushel per acre yield. A 43-bushel per acre yield was received on 17 acres of soybeans and 104-bushel per acre on 17 acres of corn.

The co-chairmen of the plot for 1976 were seniors Bruce Ristau and Wayne Wessels. Junior Rahn Griemann will be the farm manager for 1977.

The expenses for the plot were handled partly by a loan from a local bank and money already in the account. The land is rented from the school and payment is made of all materials used on the crops. The FFA members are called upon to donate their time and machinery in preparing the fields and doing the field work.

As is typical with all farmers the group is busy making plans for next year. Improvement of the fences and the tile openings are just a couple of goals for next year. (*Blue Earth Post clipping*)

These Alaskan Future Farmers from the Nome Chapter along with Advisor Bob Waite at right, worked together to make their own chapter banner. It is in preparation for the first state FFA convention of the Alaskan Association.



"For a boy who won the hog calling contest, you sure can be quiet at times."

Three States Meet

The Eaton-Highland, Colorado, FFA Chapter held their twenty-eighth annual Little International Livestock Show.

There were FFA chapters from Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and 4-H clubs from Weld County. There were classes in beef, swine, sheep and horses.

The show was Friday and Saturday, November 5 and 6.

The FHA held a pancake breakfast on the second day. Other food was provided by all the FFA members from the chapter which the mothers served.

"We held our livestock show at Greeley Producers and have held it there for the past five years. The livestock show is growing and we are getting more members to participate. We give out trophies for all the top animals.

On Sunday following the show Eaton-Highland members worked to clean up and it was a 100 percent activity. (*Cathy Larson, Reporter*)

The Chamber of Commerce surprised the Cleburne, Texas, officers by naming the chapter as this year's winner of a Community Service award for FFA's efforts in bringing honor, prestige and more recognition to Johnson County.

Do-It-Yourself Leader Shop

The San Bernardino mountains were the site of the recent Arlington, California, Chapter's leadership conference. Sixteen officers and committee chairmen spent three days working out the details and proposed accomplishments for their individual committees for the 1976-77 FFA program of work.

Activities included sharing experiences which helped the various committee chairmen plan their activities.

The group leadership activities were led by experienced leaders, David Stalder, Chris Traver and Tom Michna, who have all had leadership experience beyond the chapter level. David and Chris have both served as chapter officers plus sectional officers and student body officers. They also attended the National FFA Convention. Tom Michna had attended a 1976 National Leadership Conference in Washington D.C.

These people conducted small group sessions in an effort to communicate more effectively. There was time between group sessions for hiking, fishing and just rapping. In the evenings people gathered around the campfire. This is an annual event for the Arlington FFA Chapter. The combination of relaxed atmosphere and outdoor environment has proved to be very motivating. (*Cindy Traver, Reporter*)

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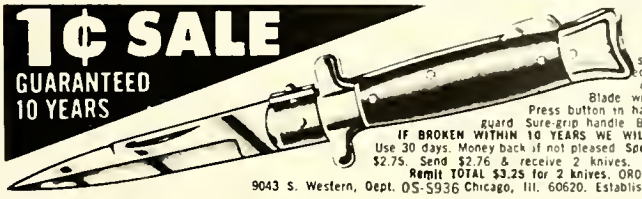

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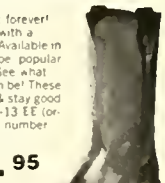

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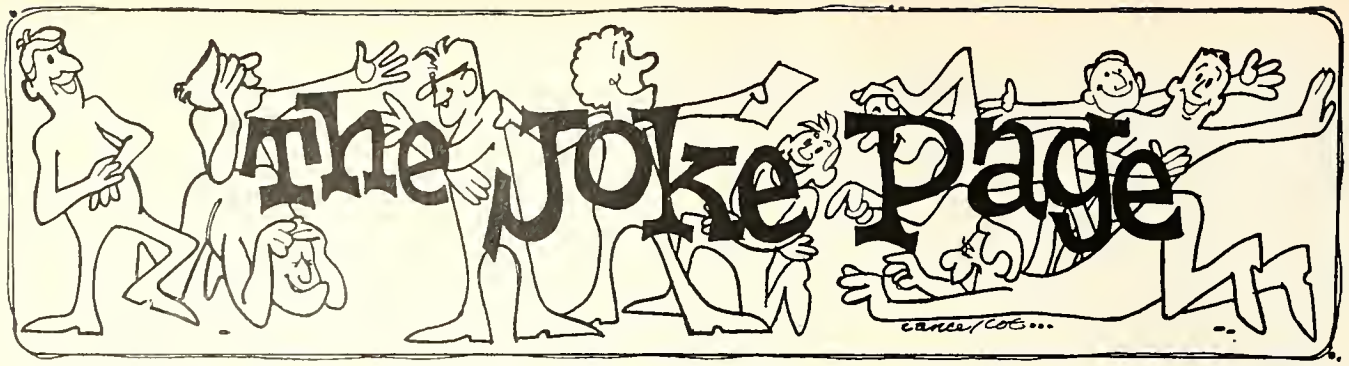


There was a man who had a dog that he thought could out fight any dog in the country. So one day he met a man leading a little yellow dog. He tried and tried to get the man to let the dogs fight. The man finally agreed to it. The little yellow dog gave one lash with its teeth and killed the other. The man said, *"What kind of dog is that?"* The other man replied, *"It used to be an alligator until I cut its tail off and painted it yellow."*

Harlan Fugate
Pomeroyton, Kentucky

"But now, chief, let me tell you the bad side of the new plant vitamin we've developed."

The dean of the agriculture school was interviewing a freshman. *"Why did you choose a career in this field?"*

"I dream of making a million dollars in farming like my father," answered the freshman.

The dean was impressed. *"Your father made a million in farming."*

"No," said the student, *"but he has always dreamed of it."*

Jason Moore
Liberty, Kentucky

Did you hear about the termite that got relief from a welfare board?

Willie Galley, Jr.
Oak Grove, Louisiana

Customer: *"I'll have a hamburger, medium rare; a baked potato taken out of the skin; a side order of asparagus without the tips instead of a salad; two pieces of Melba toast, well done; a cola with three drops of cherry syrup and easy on the ice. Do you have all that?"*

Waiter: *"Got it . . . number 8, Leo."*

Jimmy Scheetz
Quakertown, Pennsylvania

A New Mexico farmer got into the habit of asking an old Indian for his opinion of the weather because he always was accurate. One day the farmer approached him as usual and asked, *"Do you think it will rain soon, chief?"*

The venerable Indian looked up and said sadly, *"No can tell—radio busted."*

Gareth Kundert
Juda, Wisconsin

A teacher was telling her friend about the excitement at school when classes were dismissed for vacation. *"There was table-banging, foot-stomping and all-around rejoicing,"* said the teacher.

"Real wild, huh?" asked the friend.

"Yes," replied the teacher, *"and that was just the teachers' lounge!"*

Scott McPhail
Athens, Tennessee

Post Office Clerk: *"Is this package for you? The name is obliterated."*

Man: *"No, my name is O'Brien."*

Derek Goodman
Todd, North Carolina

Sam: *"What is the main use of cowhide in the U.S.?"*

Joe: *"To hold cows together."*

Ruth Ann Brickner
Brooklyn, Wisconsin

The boss was walking through the shipping room of his company when he noticed a young man sitting on top of a large box.

Boss: *"Boy, what's your salary?"*

Boy: *"Sixty dollars a week, sir."*

Boss: *"Well, here's a week's pay. Now get out. You're fired!"*

When the boss saw the shipping room foreman later he asked, *"That good-for-nothing boy that was sitting on that box, how long has he been with us?"*

Foreman: *"That kid didn't work here, he was delivering a package."*

Ray Bowen
Winfield, Alabama

A hunter was lost and screamed at his guide: *"You told me that you were the best guide in New Hampshire!"* And the guide said: *"I am, but I think we're in Canada now!"*

Jeff Thomas
St. Petersburg, Florida

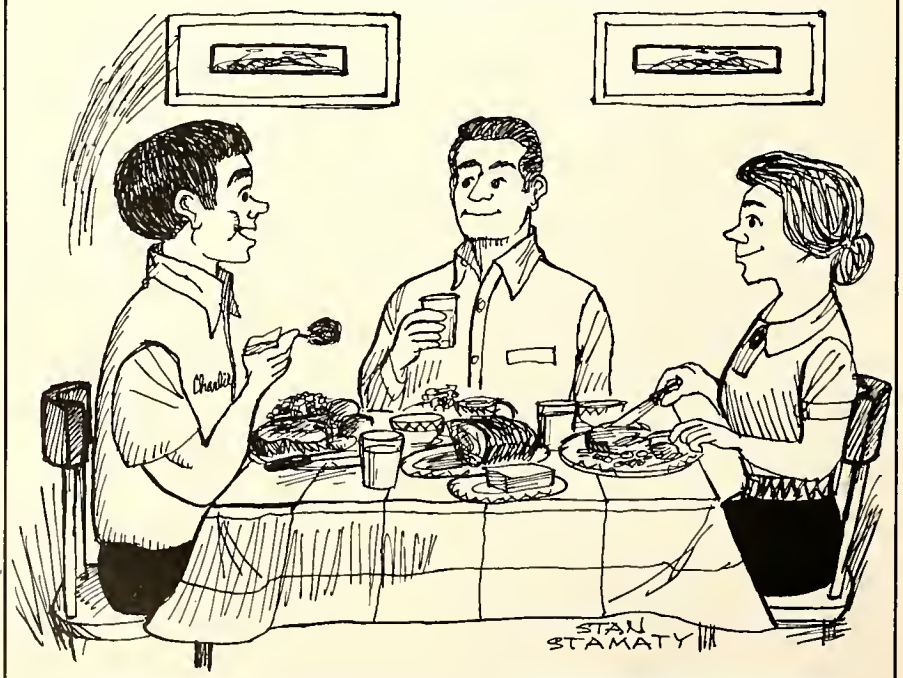
Private: *"I think I give the sergeant headaches."*

Corporal: *"Why, do you say that?"*

Private: *"Every time he sees me, he hollers, 'Tension.'"*

Darrell Inman
Danville, Virginia

Charlie, the Greenhand



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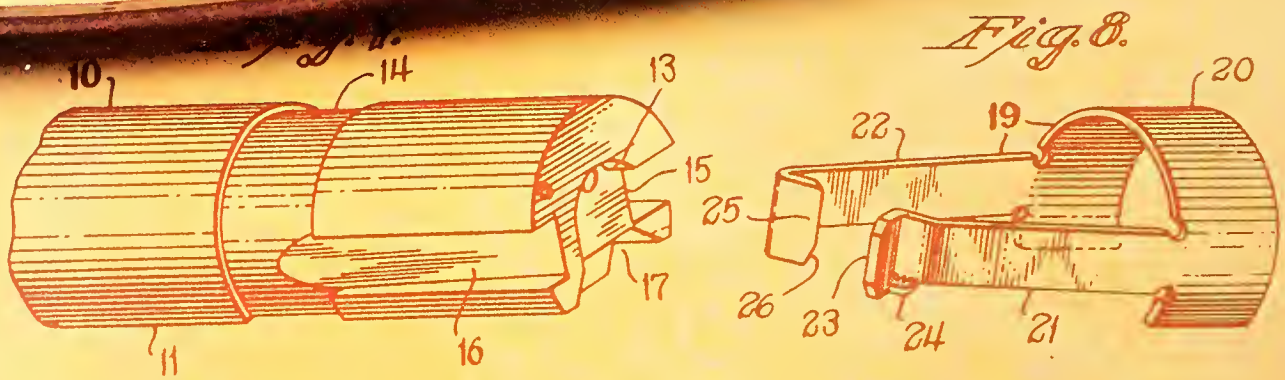

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